

Hafa Adai!

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Report: Not enough workers

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

A recent report issued by the U.S. Department of the Interior notes what the CNMI government has been insisting all along—that there aren't enough workers for the CNMI's growing economy.

In fact, the DOI report, submitted to U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources chair Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ) last Oct. 1, pointed out that there simply aren't enough U.S.-eligible workers from other U.S.-affiliated jurisdictions in the region, such as the Federated States of Micronesia.

"The CNMI has explored sourcing its labor needs from regional jurisdictions to in-

clude the FSM, [Republic of the] Marshall Islands, and [Republic of] Palau. However, the available labor pool within these jurisdictions is inadequate to offset its foreign labor loss," the report noted.

That there aren't enough workers for the CNMI, even when sourcing them from U.S.-affiliated jurisdictions has long been a com-

See REPORT on Page 4

Garapan store robbed of cigarettes

By MARC A. VENUS
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REPORTER

A store near Mobil Middle

Road was robbed last Friday, with the perpetrator taking off with three boxes of cigarettes worth more than \$200.

According to 6JMS store owner and cashier Anelia Singson, she was completing a transaction with a customer

around 7:57pm and was getting ready to attend to another customer wanting to buy two cigarette packs when the perpetrator came up to her and threatened to attack her, forcing her to give him three reams of cigarettes.

The cigarettes, a ream of Camel Silver and two reams of Pall Mall cigarettes, are worth more than \$200. As soon as he

See STORE on Page 4



This frame grab from a closed-circuit surveillance camera shows the perpetrator who stole three reams of cigarettes from the 6JMS store in Garapan last Friday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The strength of a survivor



By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

"My name is Jacqueline Crisostomo and this is my story. I am a survivor of domestic violence and depression. I overcame the pain and found a better reason to be here. I do not walk this journey alone. I am here to walk with other survivors. I am a living testimony that we all can find our peace and healing..."

Story on Page 8

DFW starts collecting \$3 per passenger fee



By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

To minimize any problem that may crop up and in anticipation of the high demand for wristbands that were required of tourists going to Managaha Island, the Division of Fish and Wildlife set up camp by the gate of the transient dock at the

See DFW on Page 4

Fish and Wildlife director Manny M. Pangelinan stands by the transient dock gate on the afternoon of Austerity Friday to check on the docked boat at the Smiling Cove Marina as passengers make their way back from their day trip to Managaha Island.

IVA MAURIN

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LOCAL

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has extended the VALOR program in the CNMI.

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BUSINESS

McDonald's Saipan hosts the Employee of the Quarter Dinner for top performing employees.

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ASIA

A typhoon unleashed heavy rainfall on Tokyo, leaving seven dead and 15 missing.

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Local

Hazardous surf continues

Hazardous surf continues for the Marianas.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, residual northwest swell generated by Super Typhoon Hagibis, which is now wreaking havoc in Japan, will remain big enough to prolong hazardous surf across the

Mariana islands through this morning.

A high surf advisory remains in effect on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota until 6pm today, Monday; a small craft advisory remains in effect until 10 am this morning.

For north and west facing reefs, expect hazardous surf of 7 to 9 feet to linger through Monday morning. Surf is expected to fall below hazardous levels this

afternoon.

The public is advised not to venture out along north and west facing reefs and beaches. Breaking waves can knock you down and cause serious injuries. Strong rip currents will be life threatening.

Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, are also advised to avoid sailing in these conditions. *(Saipan Tribune)*

Indigenous Cultural Expo postponed

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

The community would have to wait up until November for the celebration of the Indigenous Cultural Expo.

The expo, which is supposed to be held today at the Civic Center in Susupe as part of the celebration of Commonwealth Cultural Day, had to be postponed until next month due to unavailability of natural materials and supplies needed for

the demonstrators.

This is given the recent Super Typhoon Hagibis that hit the island Monday evening.

This decision was made in a meeting Friday among representatives of the Indigenous Affairs Office, the Carolinian Affairs Office, the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, and the Marianas Visitors Authority.

The expo will showcase seafaring traditions, traditional food and medicines (with free tastings), tradi-

tional coconut products and usage, native agricultural techniques, free bull cart rides, cultural performances, and language and culture.

Members of the community will also be able to join and enjoy a traditional *fiesta* (communal feast) where traditional food such as root crops, roast pigs, beef, cooked fish, and others will be served.

For more information or updates about the expo, contact the IAO Office at 664-2664.

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CHCC pays CUC \$200K for utilities, works on resolution to pay monthly

The Commonwealth Health Care Corp. recently made a \$200,000 partial payment to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for its utilities that has reportedly ballooned to over \$27 million.

CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho informed CUC directors during Thurs-

day's board meeting that he met with CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña to discuss CHCC's delinquent accounts.

Camacho said their discussion was productive and that Muña made a payment of \$200,000. Camacho said

Muña also stated that she recognizes the debt problem and explained challenges the health care corporation is currently dealing with.

He said Muña disclosed that she is working on a resolution to pay the monthly bills and that she would need legislative

support for that.

With the \$200,000 partial payment, Camacho did not indicate how much CHCC still owes CUC.

Last May, acting CUC board chair Weston Deleon Guerrero said CUC should take CHCC to court to compel it to pay its debt, which has reportedly reached over \$27 million, with

CHCC allegedly failing to pay \$400,000 in monthly bills.

Deleon Guerrero said the court should intervene and decide on the matter as it is the only remaining avenue for CUC to collect the money.

Last April, Camacho said that, according to CHCC, they can only afford to pay \$71,000 at this time because of other ob-

ligations that they must meet.

Camacho underscored the need to be creative and work something out with CHCC to collect the receivables.

Last March, CUC reported that CHCC owes the utilities agency \$27,412,615, with its past due being four years. Last April, the debt reached \$27.7 million. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Judge dismisses Fargo's 3rd lawsuit

The federal court has dismissed another lawsuit filed by a Russian national, who, this time, is suing his landlord for allegedly trying to evict him from an apartment unit.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, however, allowed Milan Frank Fargo to file his complaint in the Superior Court.

In dismissing the case, Manglona said that Fargo's claims arise under Commonwealth contract and tenant law, not federal law, and that he has not said anything how the District Court has jurisdiction over the case.

Manglona said Fargo has not alleged diversity of citizenship between himself and defendant, Life Care Center International Inc.

"Even if he had done so, the amount in controversy is far below the \$75,000 threshold for diversity jurisdiction," Manglona said.

Manglona directed the clerk to close the case.

Fargo, filed *pro se* (without a lawyer) a draft emergency complaint against his landlord, Life Care Center International, for alleged violations of Commonwealth Public Law 10-67 related to eviction proceedings.

Fargo also raises potential contract law claims.

In dismissing the case, Manglona noted that the documents filed indicate the

amount in controversy is about \$6,050.

Manglona said federal courts have jurisdiction over civil actions involving parties who are citizens of different states and amounts in controversy in excess of \$75,000, known as diversity jurisdiction.

Fargo was also suing the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for allegedly hiding documents related to his humanitarian parole.

Manglona had already issued a judgment in Fargo's lawsuit favorable to DHS. Fargo then appealed the judgment to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Fargo also sued the Federal Emergency Management Agency for allegedly finding him ineligible for some or all of the FEMA funds provided after Typhoon Soudelor struck Saipan in 2015.

Last July, Manglona dismissed all claims except one in Fargo's lawsuit against FEMA.

Manglona found that Fargo has stated a claim on which

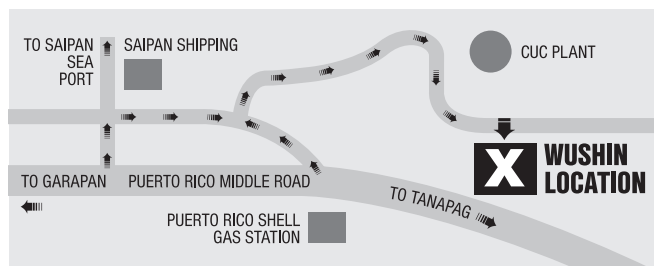
relief may be granted, but only as to FEMA's determination that he was ineligible for disaster assistance after Typhoon Soudelor.

Manglona said Fargo's all other claims—for failing to respond to requests for medical assistance, for using the Aging Center as a shelter, for problems with email, and for any assistance relating to Super Typhoon Yutu—are dismissed with prejudice.

The judge ruled that the court does not have jurisdiction to hear such claims.

Dismissal with prejudice means Fargo may not renew such claims in any amended pleadings.

According to court records, the 66-year-old Fargo's original name was Nassir Nazarovich Kourbanov. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



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\$1M expenditure bill for Tinian is enacted

A Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation bill that divvies up \$1 million 2019 annual Casino License Fee among several Tinian projects has been enacted.

Rep. Antonio Borja's (R-Tinian) House Local Bill 21-31, D1, which seeks to appropriate a total of \$1 million of the 2019 annual Casino License renewal fee, is now law after Gov. Ralph DLG Torres enacted it last Oct. 3.

Majority of the \$1 million is allocated to the Tinian Mayor's Office, specifically for personnel, operations, public programs, and professional services, including the Tinian Municipal Treasury and the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission.

Including \$50,000 set aside

for the Tinian Mayor's Office discretionary account, the office was allocated a total of \$920,000. The expenditure authority is the Tinian Mayor's Office.

Operational costs for Tinian and Aguiguan are allocated \$50,000 for the legislative delegation's expenditure and the remaining \$30,000 is allocated to the Tinian Municipal Scholarship. The expenditure authority is the delegation chairman, Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian).

The legislation now goes into the records as Tinian Local Law 21-07.

The governor also enacted last Oct. 3, 2019, Rep. Ivan A. Blanco's (R-Saipan) House Local Bill 21-28, S1, D6. The legislation appropriates

funds collected from the same source, the 2019 annual Casino License renewal fee.

The legislation appropriated \$3 million from the fund toward repairs of Public School System campuses on Saipan, including a total of \$250,000 that will go specifically to the Adm. Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School.

Other projects funded on Saipan include ongoing road improvement projects, the Saipan Mayor's Office, the Northern Islands Mayor's Office, the Joeten Kiyu Public Library, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance program, and both the Carolinian Affairs Office and the Indigenous Affairs Office. *(Erwin Enicnares)*

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Over 470 visit 2020 Census job fair

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
Erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A total of over 470 residents visited the CNMI 2020 Census job fair at the Pedro P.

Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe over the weekend. From Friday to Saturday,



The 2020 CNMI Census job fair at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center attracted over 474 residents who applied to fill over 500 job positions.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

from 10am to 4pm, about 474 residents on Saipan visited the job fair, according to 2020 Census office manager Claudio “Clyde” Norita.

“It’s a one-stop shop. It’ll be more convenient for [interested applicants] to show up here...because all the forms are here, all the support is here, all the necessary certifying documents are here, so it’s easy and it’s convenient,” Norita told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview.

Had interested applicants applied through other avenues, they would have to jumped among different agencies to secure the extensive list of requirements.

“We gathered all the agencies here in one place,” Norita said.

He noted that the number of residents who dropped by to apply for jobs exceeded their expectations. Rota’s job fair for the 2020 Census was completed last Sept. 27, 2019, while Tinian’s job fair was held on Oct. 4, 2019.

The job fair, according to a previous interview with Norita, was held to fill up to 60 full-time jobs and up to 500 part-time jobs. Noting that the employment period would only be valid temporarily, or until the end of the 2020 Census, Norita’s office only hired 12 members as part of the skeleton crew.

“The bulk of the hiring has not been done yet,” he said.

“We have started to sort out

applications for [Friday and Saturday] After that, we will have to [compile them],” he said, adding that an automated response for applicants will be sent to them after a federal background check.

The third day of the three-day Census job fair will be held on Oct. 19, 2019, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, also from 10am to 4pm.

Interested applicants should bring a filled-out CNMI Office of Personnel Management application form, an updated résumé, CNMI court clearance, and a copy of two valid identification cards such as passports, driver’s license, or a municipal ID.

STORE

From Page 1

got the cigarettes, he then fled on foot.

Shortly after, Singson called 911 and Department of Public Safety officers arrived at the scene. Posts on social media outlets such as Facebook and Twitter started spreading information shared by Singson. She said there have been no leads in the case and that it is still under police investigation.

According to photos and video footage provided by Singson, the perpetrator was

wearing a blue and white New York baseball cap with glasses, and a camouflage jacket. He is described to be about 5’7” to 5’9” in height and of medium build.

She said that this was the first time ever that the store had been robbed and she hopes that the community can help find the perpetrator.

Saipan Tribune has made separate inquiries with DPS about the robbery, but there has been no response as of press time. If you have any information about this robbery, call 911 or the CNMI Crime Stoppers at (670) 234-7272.

REPORT

From Page 1

mon refrain among CNMI businesses.

The DOI report about this lack of U.S.-eligible workers to replace foreign labor in the CNMI comes despite the U.S. government providing over \$1 million to train FSM citizens through the Center for Micronesian Empowerment, or CME.

“The CME has graduated and found employment for 270 Pacific Islanders not from Guam,” the report noted, adding that the Office of Insular Affairs noted a per-person cost of \$3,704.

“Despite these longstanding efforts by CME in partnership with federal and local partners, the available labor for the military build-up alone is currently insufficient,” it added, not referring to plans to build up the U.S. military’s footprint in Guam.

Besides the CME, the OIA, according to the report, noted that it continues to work with the U.S. Department of Labor on several technical programs that could possibly lead to recruitment and training of U.S. workers.

Such programs include the Zero Waste Initiative in partnership with the CNMI Department of Public Works. This program diverts green

waste, yard waste, and food scraps into organic matter that will be recycled as a fertilizer and soil amendment—a program that will also employ and train composting technicians to receive compostable materials.

The OIA further noted that it also awarded the CNMI Office of Substance Abuse and Drug Rehabilitation a technical assistance grant to recruit and hire newly licensed and certified psychiatrists, who would provide “specialized leadership and clinical expertise at the center.”

The DOI submitted the report after the enactment of Public Law 115-218 in the wake of the passage of the NMI U.S. Workforce Act of 2018, which mandated that the department submit a report describing how it assists the CNMI in terms of identifying opportunities for economic growth, providing assistance in recruiting, training, and hiring U.S. workers, and providing other technical assistance.

U.S. PL 115-218 is also the legislation that ultimately extended the NMI’s CW program for another 10 years, along with a plethora of additional requirements and renewed restrictions for the CW visa, or the main temporary foreign labor visa that is uniquely eligible solely in the CNMI.



Tourists are handed wristbands as they get ready to board their boat for a day trip to Managaha. The new passenger loading scheme features wristbands that boat operators give to each passenger, as a way to monitor the number of passengers being loaded using the transient dock at the Smiling Cove Marina.

IVA MAURIN

DFW

From Page 1

Smiling Cove Marina last Friday, as the \$3-per-passenger loading fee took effect.

Even before the tourists started arriving, DFW director Manny M. Pangelinan, who was at the dock, had to address concerns of boat operators wanting to avail of wristbands, but who have not paid the fee for the transient dock commercial use permit—even after a 10-day grace period the government had set for boat operators to pay the fee.

An employee of Asia Marine Sports, who identified himself as Salim, said they had to stop operation for the day.

“[If] we don’t pay the government, then we cannot load,

I understand,” Salim said. “We need to pay, after that we can do operation. The government [has] rules now.”

The money collected will be used for the maintenance and operation of the transient dock.

At around 8am, tourists started arriving in droves, highlighting issues in the new system that have to be addressed, primarily the need for a waiting area for tourists as they wait for their boat to dock.

Also, the dock space was too small, given the number of passengers coming in.

“We do it one at a time for safety purposes,” Pangelinan said in explaining the passenger loading process. “We do not want to crowd [the dock] as accidents can happen. We want to make sure that the flow goes slow, but in a progressive way.”

The transient dock within the Smiling Cove Marina is now being used to load and unload passengers going to and from Managaha, instead of the Outer Cove Marina, which was closed last Sept. 30 for being unsafe for public use. Each passenger is charged \$3; the boat operator issues a wristband to the passenger who has already paid the fee. DFW then collects the wristbands when they get off at the Smiling Cove Marina.

On the first day last Friday, Pangelinan reports that DFW collected 479 wristbands.

Earlier, Pangelinan said he expects that not all boat operators would comply with the new regulation, and that the DFW will assess and find solutions for things that could go wrong.

Other issues raised include some operators not being able to use the dock because of the size of their boats, and people raising concerns that the wristbands, once discarded, would end up as just another trash in the ocean.

For now, as the DFW fine-tunes the new system, Pangelinan and his team would be standing guard by the gates of the Smiling Cove to address immediate concerns, and to know and assess all the issues being raised as the new system is being implemented.

“Each day should become much better, much smoother,” Pangelinan said. “People always resist change. [But], as they acclimate to the changes, those complaints will start phasing out. If we want to improve life and quality, we have to make some changes.”

CHCC begins solar power project at lower parking lot

By **MARC A. VENUS**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Care Corp. will soon start the construction of the Commonwealth Health Center's solar power project, which will take the form of a covered parking lot at CHC and the roofs made up of solar panels.

The project is expected to be fully completed in early 2020.

This project follows CHCC's upgrades on the hos-

pital's water system and is ultimately intended to help the hospital lower its energy cost, boost its energy efficiency, and reduce its carbon footprint.

The project, called the Photovoltaic System Parking Shade Structure, was made possible after CHCC received a \$560,000 grant from the Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs Energizing Insular Communities program.

According to *Saipan Tri-*

bune archives, CHCC CEO Esther Muña said the project is long overdue for a healthcare facility like CHC, as it would save them money that they can use for other services. She added that the hospital consumes a lot of energy due to 24-hour air-conditioning and the equipment they use every day.

CHCC estimates to save as much as \$700,000 a year on its utility bills once the solar project is completed.

With the construction undergoing, CHCC advises to the public that finding parking at CHC may be slightly more difficult as a portion of the lower parking lot is sectioned off for the construction. CHCC's facilities and maintenance team have been working on solutions to accommodate both patients and staff, and requests the public be aware to new traffic flow patterns around the outpatient clinic and administrative entrances.



The section of the Commonwealth Health Center's parking lot that will be used for the solar panel project is sectioned off. The project, called the Photovoltaic System Parking Shade Structure, is expected to be completed by early 2020.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

4 quakes noted in Marianas region

By **MARC A. VENUS**
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REPORTER

Three earthquakes recently occurred in the CNMI, the first being a 4.7-magnitude

earthquake centered at 7 miles north-northeast of Farallon de Pajaros last Monday, the second a 4.9-magnitude earthquake centered 27 kilometers south of Pagan last Wednesday, and the last a 5.1-magni-

tude earthquake centered 73 kilometers east of Anatahan yesterday.

According to CNMI Homeland Security & Emergency Management's Emergency Operations Center report, 4.6-magnitude earthquake also occurred north-northwest

of Dededo Village in Guam last Wednesday.

EOC reports that the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center did not issue any tsunami warnings or advisories for these earthquakes.

The week prior, EOC reported two earthquakes that

occurred in the CNMI. The first was a 4.9-magnitude earthquake centered at 254 kilometers northwest of Farallon de Pajaros last Oct. 1 and the second was a 4-magnitude earthquake located 132 northeast of Agrihan last Oct. 3.

For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at (670) 237-8000. The EOC Warning Point also states possible area advisories for military trainings happening on other islands in the CNMI, and special weather and marine advisories for

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'If not for new deadline, PIC culinary would have suffered'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Pacific Islands Club Saipan's culinary department would have suffered tremendously without the 30-day extension for companies to submit their CNMI-Only Transitional Worker (CW-1) extension applications, according to PIC general manager Gloria Cavanagh.

Had U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services not extend the CW applications deadline to Nov. 1, 2019, about 30 employees at PIC, most of them cooks, would have been affected, Cavanagh said in an interview last week.

Cavanagh said she believes all hotels and businesses on the island have CW manpower problems, although at PIC "it's a little bit minimal."

"But we're really glad and happy that there was a 30-day extension," said Cavanagh, who is also the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Hotels board chairwoman.

She said majority of key positions at PIC are filled by U.S. citizens but many CW workers are also holding key positions as far as skilled labor is concerned.

The general manager said their CW workers in the building maintenance division were

the first one to actually get their CW-1 permits.

"So that was fantastic. But our cooks, our culinary, would have been suffering

greatly without the extension," she added.

The mass exodus of foreign workers under the CW program was averted after

USCIS announced last Sept. 25 the new submission deadline for CW-1 applications and renewal petitions.

Had there been no extension,

the work permits of almost all foreign workers in the CNMI, which expired last Sept. 30, 2019, would have required the workers to exit the

CNMI and await the approval of their work permits in their home countries, which could take weeks or months away from work.



Students, teachers, and staff of Hopwood Middle School pose for a picture with Reps. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) and Luis John Castro (R-Saipan) last Friday shortly after the cleanup at Hopwood's Chalan Piao campus.

MARC A. VENUS

Students, teachers, parents clean up Hopwood

By **MARC A. VENUS**
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REPORTER

In hopes of seeing their return to the Hopwood Middle School campus in Chalan Piao

come closer, school staff, student leaders, elected leaders, and members of Hopwood Middle School's Parent-Teacher Association joined together to clean up the campus

of debris and overgrown grass last Friday.

Hopwood principal Dr. Rizalina Liwag thanked everyone who joined, saying this is one way for students, teachers, and staff can do to help the campus for the time being.

Talks about the rehabilitation of the Chalan Piao campus is still ongoing within the Public School System. The school suffered catastrophic damage during Super Typhoon Yutu in October 2018.

Reps. Luis John Castro (R-Saipan), Tina Sablan (Ind-

Saipan), and Richard Lizama (Ind-Saipan) joined the cleanup; other lawmakers contributed materials.

Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan), Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan), and Sen. Vinie Sablan (Ind-Saipan) each sent staff and refreshments; they were unable to participate due to conflicting schedules. The Lady Diann Torres Foundation also sent refreshments.

CNMI Forestry and the Micronesian Islands Nature Alliance helped remove the collected debris from the campus. The Department of Public Works also provided manpower

er services and equipment.

While there is no current timeline on when the campus will be revitalized, Liwag said the Federal Emergency Management Agency recently visited the campus.

PSS has also been looking at ways to get the Chalan Piao campus up and running as soon as possible.

Super Typhoon Yutu left the school with only 19 usable classrooms; it had 54. The middle school is currently holding classes in a temporary campus next to Koblerville Elementary School made up of 42 military tents.



NORTHERN MARIANAS COALITION
AGAINST DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE
P.O. BOX 506689, SAIPAN, MP 96950
PHONE: 670.234.3878

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM (SART) MANAGER (Temporary, 12 months)

NMCADSV is looking for a motivated individual to join its team! We are looking for someone who is rooted in service and believes in the social justice values we uphold.

Job Summary: The SART Manager will work with the Executive Director of NMCADSV, NMCADSV staff, and its Board to achieve the mission, goals, and objectives of the organization. The SART Manager will be primarily responsible for CNMI-wide systems advocacy to cultivate the prevention of sexual violence and victim-centered responses for victims of sexual assault. This includes taking a leadership role in facilitating cross-discipline collaboration, providing ongoing training and technical assistance to SART members and allied organizations, and obtaining feedback from all partners to develop policies and protocols that support victim-centered and empowerment-based responses to victims of sexual assault. In addition, the SART Manager will be responsible for convening monthly meetings on Saipan, attending SART related meetings on Tinian and Rota, and mandatory meetings and training events in the U.S.

Minimum Qualifications: An understanding of and agreement with NMCADSV's mission statement and philosophy regarding the elimination of domestic and sexual violence; strong communication skills, verbal and written, with diverse groups of people and professionals; strong organizational, collaborative, and project management skills; experience with training or providing education to various audiences; experience with facilitating meetings and bringing stakeholders together for collaborative efforts; ability to facilitate engagement and interest among allied partners with positive and professional communication; experience with assessments and analysis; ability to implement complex projects with extremely tight deadlines; must be able to travel within the CNMI and to the US Mainland immediately upon hire; must have access to reliable transportation; and must be able to work immediately upon offer.

Classification & Salary Range: Full Time, Exempt. Some nights and weekends required. Travel is required. \$16.00/hr to \$22.00/hr (based on experience and qualifications).

Copies of the full Position Description can be requested by email at info@endviolencenmi.org or downloaded from the NMCADSV Facebook page. Hard copies are also available at the NMCADSV Office (directions below).

To Apply: A Resume and Cover Letter should be submitted on or before 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 25, 2019. Provide a list (not copies) of any certifications and/or awards. Late and incomplete submissions will not be considered.

Submit resume and cover letter to info@endviolencenmi.org, deliver to NMCADSV's office (between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.) at the Marina Heights I Building (2nd Floor, Suite 206) or mail to NMCADSV, P.O. Box 506689, Saipan, MP 96950. (Mailed applications must be postmarked on or before the deadline.) Applicants who are invited for an interview will be asked to bring a copy of their Diploma or equivalent, Police Clearance (within last 30 days), valid Passport, and a list of references.

NMCADSV is an equal opportunity employer. Individuals from under-served communities are encouraged to apply.

This project is 100% supported by federal grants, awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice, Grant Award #2019-WR-AX-0051. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this release are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp



Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

NOTICE RESCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARING

ASIA PACIFIC HOTEL PERMIT APPLICATION NO. SMS-2019-X-045


The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed construction and operation of the Asia Pacific Hotel project in Garapan, Saipan.

The First Pacific Investment Group, Inc. is proposing to renovate, expand, and convert two adjoining 2-story commercial building into a 3-story hotel. The hotel will be located along Royal Palm Avenue and Coffee Tree Mall in Garapan, on Lot Nos. 002 D 08, 002 D 09, and 002 D 10. The hotel will consist of 88 rooms with a lobby at the main entrance, 11 commercial units, generator room, 30 parking stalls with 2 ADA parking spaces and an additional 48 parking stalls with 2 ADA parking spaces which will be situated at a nearby location along Date Street and Coconut Street in Garapan, on Lot Nos. 002 D 21 and 002 D 22.

The public hearing for this project is rescheduled for **Tuesday, October 15, 2019, 5PM, at the BECQ Main Conference Room, 2nd Floor**, on Middle Road in Lower Gualo Rai.

Written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, or sent by fax at 664-8315. The project files are open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Asia Pacific Hotel project.

/s/ Janice E. Castro
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management



SM ENTERPRISES, LLC

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OFFERS THE FOLLOWING SERVICES:

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- 7T Boom Trucks
- Dump Truck
- Sky Truck / Bucket Truck
- Backhoe
- Tractor & lowboy
- Track Mini Excavator
- Wheeled Excavator
- Track Excavator
- Forklift
- Telescopic Handler
- Skid Steer Loader

Across Saipan Vegas,
Chalan Pale Arnold Road
Office No: 235-7635
Email: smellsaipan@gmail.com

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SPOTLIGHT *The strength of a survivor*

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Editor's Note: This article is part of "Spotlight," a recurring series featuring CNMI personalities. To suggest a person to feature in this section, email us at editor@saipantribune.com.

"My name is Jacqueline Crisostomo and this is my story. I am a survivor of domestic violence and depression. I overcame the pain and found a better reason to be here. I do not walk this journey alone, I am here to walk with other survivors. I am a living testimony that we all can find our peace and healing..."

Domestic violence wears many faces. Today, we feature one of those faces, one that belongs to an amazingly strong woman, Jacqueline Crisostomo, a survivor by every definition of the word. Through her story is the hope that those who still are in abusive relationships would see hope and regain the strength and the courage to find peace, to break free, and to take back control of their lives.

About eight years ago, in 2011, Crisostomo moved to the U.S. mainland, in pursuit of something new and challenging. Born and raised on Saipan, Crisostomo joined the U.S. Army, a decision that was not easy for her and her family.

"The ride through my career has been a roll-

er coaster over the years, but somehow I still keep finding the strength to push on," Crisostomo said. "I am proud to say that I serve today not just as a soldier in the U.S. Army, but as a Chamorro from Saipan."

In May 2014, a little miracle brought its presence into this world. Crisostomo's daughter, Vialanni, was born. The world stopped when this new mom heard her daughter's first cry. The following month, Crisostomo got married.

"I married the man who I pictured to spend the rest of my life with, my daughter's father," Crisostomo recalls. "He was my best friend, the love of my life and the man I always pictured to be with. He knew how to fill my love tank, for me to continue to serve him as my husband."

Despite being of different cultures, they understood that marriage is not about trying to change one another, but in finding what they love in one another, and building that common love so they would become stronger as a couple.

Their fairy tale did not last, though.

"It may be hard to read or believe but, trust me, it is harder for me to share my story as my family doesn't know what I've been through. If any of my family is reading this today, I want you all to know that I am doing better today and I have found my peace."

Dec. 14, 2015, was another usual Monday



in their household: Getting ready for work and getting Vialanni ready for day care. A little conversation escalated into an argument that became a heated moment that has never been seen before in their home.

"I could remember it so clearly—my daughter sitting at the dining table, crying and yelling hysterically as my ex-husband shoved me against the kitchen counter," Crisostomo recalls. "I remember yelling 'Stop! Vialanni is crying.'"

"He then placed his right hand around my neck as I tried to say 'You are choking me.' There was a long break in my memory—I couldn't hear, see, or feel anything. [When] I finally opened my eyes, trying to catch my breath while he has standing over me, I saw his lips moving and the anger in his eyes."

Crisostomo could not hear nor remember what her ex-husband was saying as she lay by the garage door, held hostage in her own home, without a way to seek help.

At first, her ex-husband took her keys and phone but she finally managed to break away when he gave her the car key so she could go to work.

Crisostomo then drove off, spoke to her boss, and asked to make a visit to the emergency room.

"Then there I was at the ER, lying in bed, surrounded by so many people asking the same questions, 'What happened?' 'When and where did it take place,' 'Do you remember what happened next?'"

See SURVIVOR on Next Page

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
U.S. Army soldier Jacqueline Crisostomo sheds light on domestic violence.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-19-036

MANNED SECURITY and ELECTRONIC MONITORING SERVICES

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive bids from qualified firms to provide Manned Security and Electronic Monitoring Services for various sites at CUC, Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

Contractors must provide proof of "Indemnity Liability Insurance," specifically covering security workers assigned to CUC's compound. Coverage must be a minimum of \$200,000.00. The Contractor shall agree to and indemnify and hold CUC harmless from and against all liability, loss, damage or injury, and all cost and expenses (including attorneys' fees and costs of any suit related thereto) suffered or incurred by the Cooperative, arising from or related to Contractor's negligent performance under the contract.

Proponents shall provide a certification signed by a principal of the company stating that the company is currently in full compliance with all applicable CNMI and Federal Labor Laws and has been for the past Five (5) years. Proponents shall submit a listing of all of its employees (US & Foreign) with corresponding job titles and a certification of good standing from the CNMI Department of Labor. Failure of the company to provide the certification is grounds to reject the entire Bid.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-19-036, Security Guard Services" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST, Saipan Time) on October 25, 2019.** Late submissions of Bids will not be considered.

This Invitation for bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of Bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the Proponent, awarded a contract.

All Proponents are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proponents due to lack of information or understanding of the Bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a Bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on October 11, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Mafnas, CUC Contracting Specialist via email address john.mafnas@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior - christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM GILMORE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Officer



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-19-040

Waste characterization and Disposal - CUC Saipan Power Plant No. 1 and Rota Power Plant

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified and experienced firms for the Waste characterization and disposal - CUC Saipan power plant 1 and Rota power plant, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Contractors are advised that the work will be carried out as a part of CUC response actions under the terms of Stipulated Order No.2 (SO 2).

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A mandatory **site visit and pre-bid meeting** is scheduled on **October 10, 2019 at 10:00am (ChST)** at CUC Power Plant 1 Administration Building, Lower Base, Saipan, to ensure that the contractors are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize with the site conditions. All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the plant site conditions in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or performance of work under the contract.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "IFB-19-040: Waste Characterization and Disposal - CUC Saipan Power Plant No. 1 and Rota Power Plant" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than October 29, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

The bidder is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page - <http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm>. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on October 14, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Pranhakara, Utility Coordinator/ ATMO via email address venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

SURVIVOR

From Page 8

“Everything was a blur to me, I felt so confused on how I ended up in the ER,” Crisostomo recalls. “I felt an excruciating pain in my head. I started to get dizzy, [and was] throwing up hours later. I found myself bleeding out on my bed in the ER. Bed covered with blood, I sustained an internal bleeding that led me to bleed out.”

Crisostomo had bruises on her neck and arms, but she was unsure how they got there. She felt a big lump on the left side of her head that was bigger than her hand. Later, the doctors determined that she had sustained a traumatic brain injury and a swelling in her brain and head. That swelling lasted three months.

As if it was not enough, several individuals wanted Crisostomo to change the report she filed through the military and the police department. She received threats through her ex-husband’s family and others that he worked with.

“I was afraid that my daughter would hate me one day if she found out her father wasn’t around because of the report I filed.”

The abuse or violence did

not stop there. After being served with divorce papers a few months later, Crisostomo, as she was dropping off the rest of her ex-husband’s belongings at his home, got her life threatened again.

“He pulled me and carried me into his home against my will. He slammed me into a wall and again grabbed me by my neck while others watched,” Crisostomo recalls. “I was afraid. He then yelled ‘someone get the gun so I could shoot this b***h.’”

Crisostomo thought at that time that that was her dying day.

“I knew he was capable of doing such thing with all the anger I saw in his eyes and the force I felt from his hands, but I was able to get away as I reached for my [smartwatch] to make an emergency call. I ran out of there in tears, shaking from the words he said.”

Crisostomo then entered a point in her life where she fell into severe depression and anxiety, where she shut all her emotions and just did not care for anyone or anything in the world.

In September 2016, Crisostomo did something she is not proud of. She took steps to take her life away. At that time, her daughter was with her father. She pulled her pistol out of a closet and

loaded the chamber.

“I sat there in my living room thinking to myself, ‘I didn’t want to feel this pain anymore,’ ‘I didn’t want to feel controlled by fear that someone else could take my life,’ ‘I didn’t want to remember the day I was in the emergency room surrounded by strangers asking me questions I was unsure of,’ ‘I didn’t want to keep reliving that moment of fear.’”

Crisostomo was ready to pull the trigger when something moved her to glance over her right shoulder. There, above her fireplace, was a collage of her daughter’s pictures and the photos of everyone Crisostomo loves. She dropped the gun and burst into tears.

“My daughter Vialanni has been my strength, she has been my peace. I found my comfort in her presence and my joy in her smiles. That was when I knew that I wouldn’t want to leave this world, I wouldn’t want to miss all of her journeys.”

In May 2017, a new journey started for both Crisostomo and her daughter. The military granted Crisostomo’s request to move to a new duty station for her peace and safety. She took the “most difficult decision” to leave Vialanni with her parents and moved to

Texas alone.

This is when Crisostomo started her process of healing and of accepting all the pain that she has gone through.

“I was in search of not a new me but, instead, a better me. A better person, mother, sister, daughter, and a better soldier. I took time off for myself, allowed myself to enjoy life. I was somewhere new, no one knew me or my story. I wasn’t walking on eggshells, thinking people were judging me because of what I’ve gone through.”

Crisostomo found herself smiling again, eating healthy, and back to being in the gym (her second home). She was not yet fully healed but she knew it was a start of something better.

In September 2017, Crisostomo received a call from the District Attorney of North Carolina to inform her that the state was ready to reach its verdict on her case, and to ask if she would be willing to stand before the courts.

“There was a long pause. It felt like my blood rushed through my body. I felt pale and, all of a sudden, all I saw was his face. There I was in tears as I responded ‘I am not ready to see this man again. Do I really need to come back for this case to close?’ The DA responded, ‘No.’”

Five months after, in February 2018, Crisostomo’s lawyer called to tell her that her divorce has been granted through the courts of North Carolina, and that she is, again, a free woman. She found herself crying tears, not of pain, but of joy.

“It was like a load of bricks was taken off my shoulders that day. My healing continued and slowly, I was finding someone I never knew was in me. I loved the feeling. I never found myself feeling out of control again. There and then, I knew I found my peace.”

Crisostomo knew she has completely healed when, a few months after, as she was telling her story to a friend, she did not shed a single tear.

“I forgave myself for being selfish and allowing myself to lose control. I forgave the man that caused me emotional and physical pain. I thanked God for allowing me to go through this journey...”

Now, as she continues to enjoy and survive through all the obstacles of life, Crisostomo finds peace in her daughter Vialannni.

“I know I am here today because of her, to watch her grow, to witness all her sorrows and joy and to show her how beautiful life can be. Today I am home be-

cause of her, I uncapped that bottle and threw it in an ocean so deep.”


Crisostomo also has this to say to say to those who are still suffering from domestic abuse.

“Do not be afraid to reach out for help,” she stressed. “Do not fear the words that may come out of someone else’s mouth, fear the words that you do not speak about but think about when you think you’re ready to give up.”


Crisostomo is no longer behind a wall these days, hiding from the world.

“Coming home, after eight years, I didn’t know what to expect,” she said. “I came home in search of something, but I didn’t know what I was looking for. I then found me again, that island girl who loved the beach, who loved the late-night talks with once a stranger and now a friend, the girl who finally allowed herself to feel again. I found my peace back home, I am free and I am in control.”

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. For more information about supporting survivors, call the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence at 234-3878, the Family Violence Task Force at 664-4584, or the National Domestic Violence Hotline website at thehotline.org.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-029

MAUI 4 WATER TANK DEMOLITION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified contractors for the demolition of the Maui 4 Water Tank located in Sadog Tasi, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$100.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **October 9, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-IFB-19-029 Maui 4 Water Tank Demolition”**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 25, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bids shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.*


Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 15, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Acting Drinking Water/Wastewater Manager, Yvonne Cabrera via email yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Technician, Senior via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org.


CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-037

FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR
ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2019, 2020 & 2021

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) requires the services of a U.S. Certified Public Accounting Firm/Individual with knowledge, skill, and experience in auditing (1) financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and auditing standards of the U.S. and; (2) federal awards programs in accordance with the Single Audit Act and U.S. Office of Management and Budget requisites

- Provide assistance to the CUC management with the preparation of the annual financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America
- Ensure that the financial statements and auditor's reports also meet any specific requirements contained in agreements or other contractual requirements relative to financial statement presentation and the audits.
- Submit the draft financial statements and accompanying auditor's reports to CUC management no later than January 31st of each year, and issue the final reports no later than February 28th of each year.
- Provide 15 bound copies of the final financial statements and accompanying auditor's report
- Provide an electronic copy (e.g., .pdf format) of the final report to the CUC.

The date of contract award will be no later than November 22, 2019. Auditors are responsible to review the 2019, 2020 & 2021 financial statements to include the physical CUC assets for each fiscal year.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-RFP-19-037, Financial and Compliance Audit for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2019, 2020 & 2021”** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **October 15, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. A copy of the submission, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the RFP. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 30, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Greg Cruz, CUC Chief Financial Officer, via email address greg.cruz@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIX, Issue No. 203Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
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Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Get your flu shot

Our iPhones, social media and laptops give us a sense of connection, but there's nothing like an infectious disease such as the flu to understand what "going viral" really means. Our connection also means we share a responsibility to one another to not put others in harm's way only to avoid inconvenience or discomfort.

In 2019, the least you can do to be a good neighbor is get a flu vaccine.

The flu is often thought of as a "bad cold," and for many young, strong, and healthy individuals that might be the case. But the influenza virus can be extremely harmful and even deadly to people who don't have a strong immune system, such as the elderly, infants, cancer patients and others who are immune suppressed.

The influenza virus has claimed many lives over the past century. Major global flu pandemics in 1918, 1957, 1968 and 2009 did not spare the U.S., or Philadelphia. During the 1918 pandemic, a particularly powerful strain of influenza killed 20,000 people in Philadelphia—one death every five minutes for six weeks.

But it doesn't require a global pandemic with a powerful strain for the flu to claim lives. According to the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, in flu season 2017-2018, there were 50 influenza related deaths—more than double the number of deaths in Philadelphia from the "swine flu" during the 2009 pandemic—and more than 1,500 hospitalizations. The majority of those who died or hospitalized were over the age of 65.

People with weakened immune system, or those who don't have the capacity to go get a vaccine, depend on herd immunity to protect them from influenza—and that means that everyone should chip in, especially considering that there is very little reason not to.

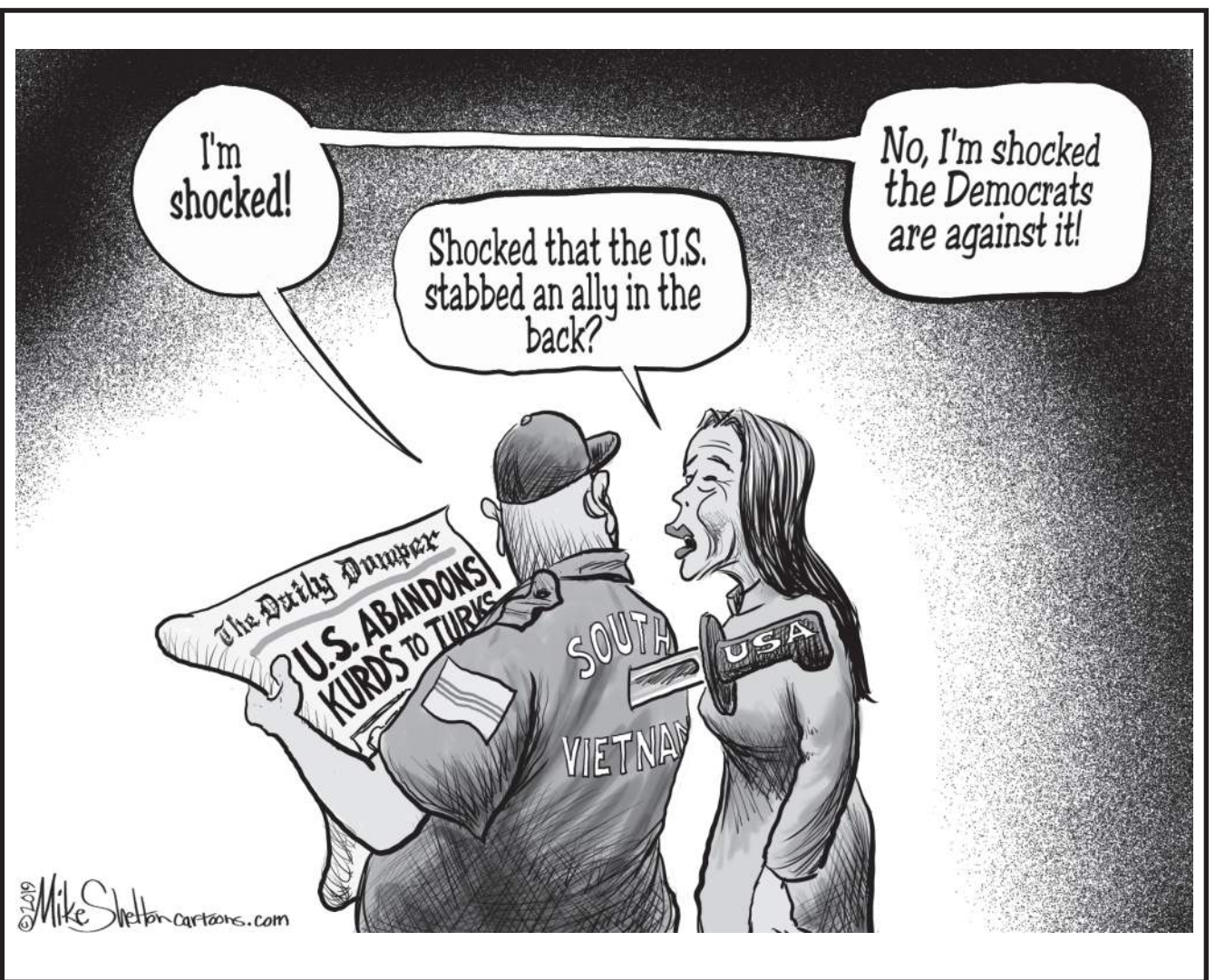
The flu vaccine is perfectly safe. The Centers for Disease Control recommends the flu vaccine for every person above the age of 6 months with very rare exceptions (people with known allergy for the vaccine, for example). And even though a low-grade fever and some ache is a possible side effect, the flu vaccine cannot cause the flu.

Many pharmacies provide flu shots at no cost or low cost. Employers should help their employees remain healthy and be good community stewards, by either arranging for a flu shot drive at the workplace or allowing employees to go out and get the flu shot without losing pay.

With a quick pinch, getting the flu shot contributes to herd immunity and protects the most vulnerable in our society from a potentially fatal illness. It is also a reminder that being part of a community means protecting one another.

You can find information about where you can get your flu vaccine on the Department of Public Health website.

(c)2019 The Philadelphia Inquirer



Audubon quantifies climate change threat

By **KENN KAUFMAN**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

For serious birders who regularly observe birds in the wild, ignoring climate change isn't possible. We have been seeing and documenting the effects of a warming climate since at least the 1950s.

In recent decades, that has meant a consistent northward shift in where species are found. Glossy black great-tailed grackles, previously found primarily in the tropics, first reached southeastern California in 1964; they now stalk and squawk around lowland ponds throughout most of the state. Big tropical seabirds named boobies (because early sailors took their tameness for stupidity) rarely appeared in California's coastal waters before the 1990s. Now we see dozens offshore from San Diego to the Channel Islands, with some as far north as San Francisco; a few have reached Alaska.

Similar patterns are playing out across the continent as scores of species redraw their range maps, appearing in new areas farther north and vanishing from sites farther south. And the pace is accelerating.

New research from the National Audubon Society released on Thursday highlights the dangers of the trend. For its new report, "Survival by Degrees," Audubon scientists analyzed the current geographic ranges of 604 North American bird species, and modeled how those ranges would change at different levels of warming.

At a global temperature rise of three degrees Celsius, they found that 389 of those species—or nearly two-thirds of those studied—would become endangered, losing much of their current habitat. Even if some could shift their range northward, they would soon start to run out of room on the map.

Ironically, the changes will make birding more exciting for a while, with birders finding new species in unexpected places, but the downside will be brutal. If warming continues unchecked, Audubon's models show, many birds will lose massive amounts of territory.

Majestic great gray owls will vanish from Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada range, and from most of Canada as well. Flashy yellow-billed magpies, living nowhere in the world but California's central valleys, will face almost certain extinction. Even in the Los Angeles region, climate change will challenge many of the most familiar birds, including California quail, hummingbirds and the noisy scrub jays so common in suburban back yards. The net loss in numbers and variety could be staggering.

Why does this matter to anyone who's not a bird watcher?

For one thing, birds fill a crucial niche in the ecosystem, keeping down insect populations and serving as food themselves for larger predators. But they also serve as a visible symbol of broader environmental shifts. It may seem like a cliché to mention the canary in the coal mine, warning miners of dangerous conditions. But bird populations are in many ways the canaries for all of us, and their shifting ranges warn of increasing droughts, floods, fires, desiccating heat, rising seas, untillable farms and unlivable cities.

We still have time to do something about it, however. The potential loss of 389 North American species projected in the Audubon study is what would happen if global readings go up by 3 degrees. But the scientists also modeled what would happen at lesser levels of warming, and the results are striking. Limiting warming to 1.5 degrees would reduce the danger for three-quarters of those threatened birds, Audubon's modeling found. The obvious canary-in-the-mine message is that this would also be of huge benefit to humans, reducing the potential suffering for people worldwide.

Audubon's "Survival by Degrees" is not a gloomy forecast but rather a call to action. Audubon is working on ways to help bird species survive the climate change already underway. But the report also stresses the need for action at every level, by individuals and governments alike, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Audubon cares about preserving the diversity of bird species, and that is the focus of its new report. But every action to help birds pull through will also make entire ecosystems more resilient.

As a lifelong birder, I'm proud of the role my tribe has played in documenting the effects of climate change. When local conditions change, particular types of frogs or wildflowers may decrease and disappear unheeded. A new moth may colonize a region, and unless it's an agricultural pest, few will notice. But when a bird species disappears from the local fauna, or a new one arrives, legions of dedicated birders document the change.

Birdwatching is a nonpartisan activity, which means I have friends across the political spectrum. In an era of polarization and partisanship, the love of birds brings us together. I hope we can heed the urgent message in this new report and work together for solutions. Birds tell us we don't have time to wait.

Author and zealous birder Kenn Kaufman is a field editor for Audubon Magazine.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Facebook just gave up the fight against fake news

Up is down. Left is right. Cats are dogs. President Trump is a very stable genius. Trump is Lucifer incarnate.

These are all demonstrably false statements. But now, thanks to a new Facebook policy that exempts political advertisements from fact-checking, they may as well be true. At least, as long as they appear in a campaign ad.

Yup, that's right. Facebook, already a "Mad Max"-style digital hellscape of fake news and misinformation, has taken the final step toward creating a fact-free reality: allowing politicians to lie with impunity. The Truthpocalypse is now, officially, upon us.

The newsletter Popular Information reported Thursday morning that the social media platform tweaked its advertisement rules last week, loosening restrictions on all advertising in general and exempting political advertisements from fact-checking entirely.

Per Popular Information: "The old rules prohibited all ads that contained 'false' and 'misleading' content and made no mention of the fact-checking program. The new rules are limited to claims that are 'debunked by third-party fact checkers.' Moreover, Facebook says 'political figures' are exempt from even that narrow restriction."

Facebook just rolled our plump, defenseless democracy over belly-up and invited the wolves over to take a bite.

Why? Well, there's really no explanation. What we do know is that this can only further muck up our elections.

Of course, Team Trump had already been playing fast and loose with the previous standard for truth on the platform for months. As Popular Information also points out, recent false or misleading Trump campaigns include a "false ad targeting seniors that claimed Trump was still considering closing the southern border," an "ad scamming its supporters by claiming there was a midnight deadline to enter a contest to win the '1,000,000th red MAGA hat signed by President Trump'" that had run every day for weeks, and an "ad that falsely claimed Democrats are trying to repeal the Second Amendment."

Lord knows they won't waste a second to exploit their new fib-friendly freedom.

And to my conservative readers, surely you must see how this shoe fits on the other foot. "A vote for Bernie is a vote for free puppies and iPhone 11 Pros." Or maybe, "Want Kaepernick to start at quarterback for the Dallas Cowboys? President Kamala can make it happen." Or, even worse: "Mayor Pete's America: More gays, less guns."

Oh the horror! Just think of how easily fooled all of us uninformed, country-loathing, entitled liberals could be! (Conservatives should also be mad that the president is blatantly lying to their face. But whatever.)

Of course, Facebook's been trending in this direction for quite some time now. In May, the company folded to the fake newsmen and refused to pull down an obviously doctored video portraying

By **BRIAN A. BOYLE**

Los Angeles Times



Nancy Pelosi as mentally impaired. It was just another example of Facebook acting derelict in its duties—or at least what critics hope its duties would be—to police and patrol the content on their platform.

That event made an enemy out of the House speaker and further cemented the views of those in her party that the tech giant requires regulation.

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg still fears federal regulation, reportedly. But these lax new rules sure prove he still doesn't seem to understand the immense amount of power he wields in influencing our elections. Somehow, a \$71 billion company can't regulate its advertisements with the same scrutiny of a local TV station. Oh well.

In the meantime, I'm abstaining from Facebook to mull a run at local office.

Who wouldn't vote for a Free Ice Cream for All platform?

The NBA salutes its Chinese overlords

Little did Dr. James Naismith know when he invented the game of basketball in Springfield, Massachusetts, in 1891 that, more than a century hence, it would become beholden to its Chinese overlords.

The NBA disgraced itself kowtowing to Beijing after the general manager of the Houston Rockets, Daryl Morey, tweeted his support for Hong Kong protesters. The words he associated himself with—"Fight for Freedom. Stand with Hong Kong"—would seem uncontroversial. Who doesn't hope for the best for plucky demonstrators trying to advance democracy against an overweening imperial dictatorship?

Morey, though, failed to adequately account for the feelings of the dictatorship. "I was merely voicing one thought," he said, in a groveling tweet after deleting his original offending one, "based on one interpretation, of one complicated event. I have had a lot of opportunity since that tweet to hear and consider other perspectives."

The "other perspectives" are those of people supporting a regime that is determined to crush Hong Kong underfoot, maintain a one-party state that stifles all internal dissent, brutally repress Uighur Muslims, grab the South China Sea, build up its military with an eye to a future confrontation with United States and re-

write the rules of the international order to its liking.

But who's to judge?

In its own lickspittle statement, the NBA said that Morey's views "have deeply offended many of our friends and fans in China, which is regrettable." It appears that the Chinese-language version was even more craven, saying that the league is "extremely disappointed" in the GM's "inappropriate" tweet.

If you follow the NBA and missed the part where Red China stole the league's soul, it's only because you haven't paid enough attention to the international business. China is a huge and growing market for the NBA. When Chinese sponsors and partners of the Rockets began to pull out, the team and the league buckled.

The joke of it is that here at home the league flaunts its woke social conscience. The NBA used the leverage of its All-Star Game coming to Charlotte to force changes to a North Carolina bathroom bill, in the name of "equality."

One would think that reeducation camps for a million Uighurs is much worse than any choice North Carolina makes about its restrooms. The NBA should be repelled by China's policies, which run counter to everything that the NBA purports to stand for.

This episode exposes the league's gutless hypocrisy. So long

Recognize Indigenous Peoples Day

By **NANCY WORCESTER**
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Recently, officials from Wisconsin's geographically largest county declared the second Monday in October, which this year falls on Oct. 14, Indigenous Peoples Day.

"We can't undo the atrocities that have been done against indigenous peoples," Tricia Zunker, associate justice of the Ho-Chunk Nation Supreme Court, told Marathon County officials as they adopted the resolution. "But we can recognize the beautiful cultures of the various tribal nations. The rich history, the different cultures, languages, government, customs, traditions. And we can appreciate that and recognize the resilience of the native people. We're still here."

Observed in place of Columbus Day, which traditionally honors colonist Christopher Columbus, Indigenous Peoples Day celebrates the survival of Native Americans and the significant roles they play today. Seven states (Alabama, Hawaii, Maine, New Mexico, Oregon, South Dakota and Vermont) and many cities and school districts now use this occasion to acknowledge the historical and cultural legacies of indigenous peoples.

Many of us are embarrassed by how little we know about Native Americans and their history of genocide, colonization,

forced removals from their land, broken treaties, boarding schools and other forms of erasure or assimilation. We are also poorly informed about their survival and continued resilience.

At a recent educational event through The Nation magazine, Lakota educator Cheryl Kary described the importance of making indigenous people visible. Years ago, she said, she overheard her 8-year-old daughter being told by a classmate that "you can't be Indian because they are all dead." A generation later, she heard those same words spoken to her granddaughter.

The revitalization of native culture and languages has brought increasing visibility to indigenous people. Whatever our interests or passions, we can find unique contributions and perspectives that American Indians bring to conversations, fields and movements. Excellent recent books, David Treuer's "The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee: Native America from 1890 to the Present," Nick Estes' "Our History is the Future," and Tommy Orange's novel, "There There," teach us about present and future issues through the lens of the past.

This year's traveling exhibition, "Hearts of Our People: Native American Women Artists," features individually named artists from named nations. So much of native art has been disrespectfully identified as representing an entire "culture" or "type" by collectors who falsely believed native cultures were vanishing.

It is also exciting to see indigenous people playing leader-

as social activism is costless, the NBA is all about its values. As soon as there is any price, it is willing to salute smartly at the dictates of one of the most cynical, self-interested regimes on Earth.

Of course, any profit-generating enterprise is going to care about its bottom line most of all. That shouldn't efface all sense of decency and self-respect, though. James Harden, the Houston Rockets star, has grown very rich and famous playing an American game in an American league. His reaction to Morey's tweet was unequivocal: "We apologize."

He thus neatly encapsulated the willingness of a segment of the American business elite to express a kind of national loyalty to a nation that isn't its own.

ship roles, for example, in environmental and climate change activism and in anti-violence movements including Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. Joy Harjo of the Muscogee Creek Nation has been named as the first Native American U.S. poet laureate. And Congress will soon have five Native Americans for the first time (including the appointment of a delegate from the Cherokee Nation, finally fulfilling an 1835 treaty commitment).

If we live in a city or state where Indigenous Peoples Day is officially recognized, we can help publicize and celebrate the day. If not, we can start working now to make sure our community officially acknowledges Indigenous Peoples Day by this time next year.

We can work to include land acknowledgements (whose land are we on?) in public spaces and events, and oppose Indian imagery as mascots or advertisements. And it's just a good time to promise ourselves that we will know a lot more about Native American issues by this time next year.

Nancy Worcester of Madison, Wisconsin, is an activist and professor emerita at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in gender and women's studies and continuing studies. This column was produced for the Progressive Media Project, which is run by The Progressive magazine.





By **RICH LOWRY**

King Features Synd., Inc.

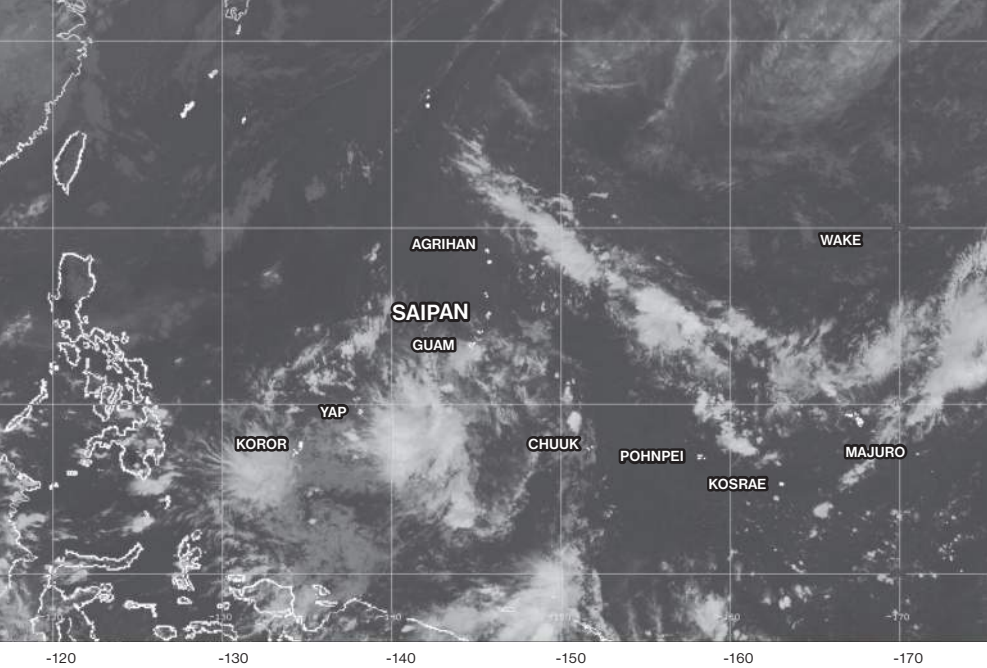
Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.



The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN							
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY	
FRIDAY							
							
Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.		Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
87° 78°		88° 78°		88° 78°		89° 78°	

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:18 AM, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Isolated showers are seen across the region with a few thunderstorms in the far southern waters of Guam. A weak disturbance is seen well south of the Marianas, causing more showers and thunderstorms between Yap and Chuuk. A surface trough extending northward sits just east of the Marianas.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	84° / 77°	
Palau	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°	
Yap	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	88° / 76°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	87° / 76°	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	63° / 55°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	63° / 41°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	90° / 79°	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	87° / 75°	
London	Sunny	77° / 57°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	85° / 57°	
Manila	Thunderstorm	91° / 77°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	61° / 48°	
Miami	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°	
New York	Mostly Sunny	69° / 55°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	73° / 57°	
Paris	Showers	73° / 61°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	66° / 55°	
Rome	Sunny	77° / 55°	
Salem	Sunny	87° / 62°	
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	75° / 51°	
Seoul	Sunny	66° / 45°	
Tokyo	Showers	70° / 59°	
Washington, DC	Sunny	75° / 55°	



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:55 AM	LOW TIDE	0.34	
7:57 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.75	
2:03 PM	LOW TIDE	0.56	
7:47 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.79	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:08 AM	5:57 PM
Tuesday	6:08 AM	5:57 PM
Wednesday	6:08 AM	5:56 PM
Thursday	6:08 AM	5:55 PM
Friday	6:09 AM	5:55 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	6:12 AM	6:24 PM
Tuesday	-	6:59 AM	7:02 PM
Wednesday	-	7:49 AM	7:42 PM
Thursday	-	8:40 AM	8:25 PM
Friday	-	9:33 AM	9:12 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 7, 2019											
DEPARTURES						ARRIVALS					
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)						GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN					
UA117		9:15am	9:57am	Daily		UA174		7:30am	8:07am	Daily	
UA105		6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4		UA104		4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4	
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)						BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN					
7C3451		3:30am	6:30am	4		7C3452		9:05pm	2:10am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	
7C3451		3:10am	6:10am	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7		7C3452		9:35pm	2:30am+1	3	
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)						SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN					
TW308		1:35am	5:20am	Daily		7C3402		9:30am	3:10pm	Daily	
OZ626		2:20am	6:00am	1		TW307		7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	
OZ626		2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		TW307		7:05pm	12:35am+1	1	
7C3403		4:45am	8:35am	1, 2, 3, 5, 7		OZ625		7:40pm	1:10am+1	7	
7C3403		5:00am	8:30am	4		OZ625		8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
7C3403		5:00am	8:50am	6		7C3404		10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 6, 7	
7C3401		4:10pm	7:45pm	4, 7		7C3404		10:40pm	4:10am+1	3, 5	
7C3401		4:10pm	8:10pm	1, 2, 3, 5, 6							
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)						SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN					
3U8648		6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7		3U8647		10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7	
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)						HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN					
JD396		7:30am	12:05pm	1		JD395		8:05am	3:30pm	4	
JD396		4:50pm	7:55pm	4		JD395		8:50pm	5:00am+1	7	
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)						GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN					
3U8646		4:30am	7:50am	2, 6		3U8645		8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5	
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)						BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN					
MU764		1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7		MU763		4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)						MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN					
OZ626/701		2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN		OZ702/625		12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN	
OZ626/701		2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ702/625		12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
UA117/183		9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM		UA192/174		9:45pm	8:07am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	
UA117/183		9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		UA184/174		10:25pm	8:07am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	
UA117/193		9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR		UA184/174		11:30pm	8:07am+1	2, 5 via GUM	
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)						HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN					
OZ626/721		2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN		OZ722/625		1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN	
OZ626/721		2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ722/625		1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
UO43		5:35am	8:25am	1		UO42		6:25pm	1:20am+1	7	
UO43		5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7		UO42		9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6	
UA117/159		9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM		UA116/174		10:45pm	8:07am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.											
SAIPAN TO ROTA						1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily		
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY			1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily		
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily			1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily		
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily			1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily		
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily			1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily		
ROTA TO SAIPAN						1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily		
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY			1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily		
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily			1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily		
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily			1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily		
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily			1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily		
ROTA TO GUAM						TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY			FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily			2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily		
GUAM TO ROTA						2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily		
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY			2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily		
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily			2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily		
SAIPAN TO TINIAN						2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily		
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY			2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily		
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily			2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily		
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily			2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily		
						2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily		
						2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily		
						2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily		
						2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily		

FEMA extends home rebuilding program in the CNMI

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has approved the Northern Marianas Islands' request to extend the home rebuilding program called VALOR, or Voluntary Agencies Leading and Organizing Repair program, until April 2020, where it continues to provide emergency home repairs for owners, renters and occupants whose primary residences were damaged by Super Typhoon Yutu in October 2018.

To date, FEMA has brought more than 170 volunteers from 25 U.S. states and Canada to conduct repairs on Yutu-damaged homes. And recently, the VALOR program partnered with the Saipan and Tinian mayor's offices and the Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts to host local volunteer repair events on both Saipan and Tinian for those who did not receive other financial assistance for



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

More than 170 volunteers from 25 U.S. states and Canada have joined volunteers of the Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts and the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the home rebuilding program to provide emergency home repairs for owners, renters and occupants whose primary residences were damaged by Super Typhoon Yutu in October 2018.



USFWS hires new field supervisor

HONOLULU, Hawaii—Katherine "Kasia" Mullett has been hired as the new field supervisor for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office. Mullett will provide leadership in all facets of the office's wildlife conservation responsibilities.

"Working with partners is essential for the conservation and recovery of the diverse, unique species in the Pacific Islands," Robyn Thorson, regional director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "Kasia's record of leadership, science-based management and collaborative partnerships, in addition to her strong management skills, will benefit the species the Service is charged to protect."

Mullett has worked in the office since 2017 and served as assistant field supervisor for Geographic Operations in the Pacific Islands. Since January 2019, she has been acting field supervisor for the office. She has a strong academic background, with a bachelor's degree and masters in Biology and a second masters in Pastoral Studies. Before working in the Pacific Islands, Mullett led a team of 100 employees including scientists, technicians and support staff as the administrator and field supervisor for two Great Lakes sea lamprey control stations in Michigan.

"By working together, we are able to conserve habitats, prevent extinctions and work toward the recovery of species," said Mullett. "I am looking forward to building on the history of conserva-

tion partnership that this office has with communities across the Pacific."

Mullett will lead a team responsible for over 540 threatened and endangered species across the Pacific. Her tenure as project leader began on Sept. 29.

The Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office works in a geographic area larger than the continental United States with a diverse set of ecosystems and species that range from the Mariana Trench to Mauna Kea, and from coral reefs to streams, rainforests and alpine deserts. The USFWS works with partners and communities to recover species and prevent their extinction across the Pacific, including American Samoa, the CNMI, Guam, Hawaii and the remote Pacific Islands. The Service also works with the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau.

The office is part of the Ecological Services program, which is responsible for administering the Endangered Species Act. The office has programs ranging from the listing and recovery of listed species, renewable energy, aquatic ecosystems, invasive species, conservation planning assistance, conservation grants, natural resource damage assessments and environmental contaminants.

More information on the Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office can be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/pacificislands/>. (PR)



USFWS hires new refuges and marine monuments supervisor for the Pacific

HONOLULU, Hawaii—The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has hired longtime natural resource professional Ric Lopez as the new Refuge and Monuments supervisor for the Pacific Islands Refuges and Monuments Office.

"Ric has a demonstrated work history of conservation and science leadership in Hawaii and the Pacific Islands," said Robyn Thorson, regional director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "He will lead a team that is responsible for protecting over three-fourths of a billion acres of public land and waters, including 22 national wildlife refuges and four marine national monuments."

Since 2017, Lopez has served as regional director for Research Partnerships and Collaboration for the US-

DA-Forest Service's Pacific Southwest Research Station. The station is responsible for work in American Samoa, the CNMI, Guam, and Hawaii, as well as working with the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau. From 2013-2017, he served as director of the USDA-Forest Service's Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry in Hilo, Hawaii. There he led ecosystem research, management, conservation and restoration efforts across the Pacific. Lopez previously served as the USDA-Forest Service national vegetation ecologist in Washington, D.C. and was a research scientist and branch chief for the Office of Research & Development at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Lopez earned his bachelor's degree in Ecology, Behavior, and Evolution at the University of California, San Diego, and then his masters and Ph.D. in Environmental Science at the Ohio State University, with emphases in Landscape Ecology and Wetland Ecology.

Lopez's tenure as refuge and monuments supervisor will begin on Nov. 24.

National wildlife refuges and marine national monuments in the Pacific Islands are located across a geographic area larger than the continental United States. They include a diverse set of ecosystems ranging from the Mariana Trench to Mauna Kea, and from coral reefs to streams, rainforests and alpine deserts. The USFWS works with partners and communities to conserve lands and waters for the

home repairs through FEMA or the U.S. Small Business Administration.

"The opportunity to work on a team motivated to help survivors with home repairs really got me excited for the project, and it's definitely something I would do again," said Chris, a CARE volunteer.

The CNMI-VALOR home repair program plans to continue its partnership with CARE and the mayor's offices, along with the support of the Office of the Governor, to assist in more community initiatives with volunteers working on repair projects.

Be a part of the recovery by participating in future events. For more information on CNMI-VALOR, e-mail CNMI-VALOR@fema.dhs.gov. (FEMA)

future, across the Pacific, including American Samoa, the CNMI, Guam, Hawaii and the remote Pacific Islands.

There are over one million annual visitors to the National Wildlife Refuge System in the Pacific Islands and millions more virtually visit these amazing places through environmental education programs and outreach such as virtual reality dives at coral reefs and web-based tours of remote islands.

"I am grateful for this new opportunity to contribute to the important goals of conservation among the wonderfully diverse ecosystems, communities, and partners of the Pacific Islands," said Lopez. "I am so pleased to join in those ongoing efforts by way of my new position with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service." (PR)

Social Security sets 1.6% benefit increase in 2020

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits for nearly 69 million Americans will increase 1.6% in 2020, the Social Security Administration announced Friday.

The 1.6% cost-of-living adjustment will begin with benefits payable to more than 63 million Social Security beneficiaries in January 2020. In-

creased payments to more than 8 million SSI beneficiaries will begin on Dec. 31, 2019. (Some people receive both Social Security and SSI benefits).

The Social Security Act ties the annual COLA to the increase in the consumer price index as determined by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Some other adjustments that

take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages. Based on that increase, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) will increase to \$137,700 from \$132,900.

Social Security and SSI beneficiaries are normally notified by mail in early December about their new ben-

efit amount. Most people who receive Social Security payments will be able to view their COLA notice online through their *my* Social Security account. People may create or access their *my* Social Security account online at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

Information about Medicare changes for 2020, when

announced, will be available at www.medicare.gov. For Social Security beneficiaries receiving Medicare, Social Security will not be able to compute their new benefit amount until after the Medicare premium amounts for 2020 are announced. Final 2020 benefit amounts will

be communicated to beneficiaries in December through the mailed COLA notice and *my* Social Security's Message Center.

The Social Security Act provides for how the COLA is calculated. To read more, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/cola. (PR)



BURGERS AND HOTDOGS

Northern Marianas College students from Tinian recently took a brief break from their studies and gathered for burgers and hotdogs at Tachogna Beach on Tinian. They were joined by Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), interim NMC president Frankie Eliptico, regent Michaele Sanchez, Associated Students of NMC president Shanthia Espinosa, and Student Activities coordinator Alexis Cabrera. NMC

Business Expo 2019 on Nov. 9

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its newly reinstated Chamber Business Expo on Saturday, Nov. 9, from 9am to 4pm at the Saipan World Resort.

The goal is for Chamber members to showcase their company and new products and services to the local market.

Additionally, this is a chance for the public to see what products will be available during the holiday season, receive special discounts on products and services, and support local vendors—all in a one-stop shopping spree.

Businesses can join this one-day-only exposition to show off their company and ultimately increase their sales this holiday season. This will be a lively, buzzing event for every type of enterprise. On top of sales, businesses have the opportunity to network, engage with suppliers, and deepen business-Chamber relation-

ships in one day.

Some reasons why businesses may choose to exhibit include:

- Showcasing new products and services to a larger audience;

- Driving future sales back to their storefront;

- Generating new leads with face-to-face interaction; and

- Networking activities on every level.

To sign up to be an exhibitor:

1. Visit and download the application packet on the Saipan Chamber of Commerce website at www.saipanchamber.com/events in the Events Page.

2. Complete and submit applications with payment to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office on the third floor, Suite 315 of the Marianas Business Plaza or email to coordinator2@saipanchamber.com.

3. Registration is currently open and deadline for applications is Friday, Nov. 1,

2019, by 5pm.

Reservations for booths are on a first-come, first-serve basis. Contact Noelani McMahon at coordinator2@saipanchamber.com or call the Chamber office at (670) 234-7150.

The Chamber is also offering a Suggestive Selling Training Seminar to help businesses prepare for the upcoming holiday season. This training opportunity is perfect for any employee get the tools and techniques

needed to make that extra effort and gain exponential advantage in the sales game. Suggestive Selling works wonders during exhibitions, creating rapport with new and old customers, and more so gaining the interest of potential loyal customers. The Suggestive Selling Training Seminar is set for Oct. 24, 2019, at \$50 per Chamber members and \$100 for future-Chamber members. To sign up today, contact McMahon. (PR)

IRS relief for NMI, Guam farmers and ranchers affected by drought

The Internal Revenue Service has extended tax relief for farmers and ranchers who were forced to sell livestock due to drought, flooding, or other severe weather in recent years.

Farmers and ranchers in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands are eligible for federal assistance.

In most cases, qualified farmers and ranchers whose drought-sale replacement period was

scheduled to expire on Dec. 31, 2019, now have until the end of their next tax year to replace the livestock and defer tax on any gains from the forced sales. Sales of other livestock, such as those raised for slaughter or held for sporting purposes, or poultry, are not eligible

“Because the normal drought-sale replacement period is four years, this extension immediately impacts drought sales that occurred during

2015,” said IRS spokesman David Tucker II. “The replacement periods for some drought sales before 2015 are also affected due to previous drought-related extensions affecting some of these localities.”

A list of all eligible areas in 32 states, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico, and the Northern Mariana Islands, can be found in Notice 2019-

54 Extension of Replacement Period for Livestock Sold on Account of Drought, available on IRS.gov.

More information on reporting drought sales and other farm-related tax issues can be found on IRS.gov; in:

- Publication 225, Farmer's Tax Guide

- IR-2019-161, IRS relief provides drought-stricken farmers, ranchers more time to replace livestock. (PR)

FACT SHEET

2020 SOCIAL SECURITY CHANGES

Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA):

Based on the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-W) from the third quarter of 2018 through the third quarter of 2019, Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) beneficiaries will receive a 1.6 percent COLA for 2020. Other important 2020 Social Security information is as follows:

Tax Rate	2019	2020
Employee	7.65%	7.65%
Self-Employed	15.30%	15.30%

NOTE: The 7.65% tax rate is the combined rate for Social Security and Medicare. The Social Security portion (OASDI) is 6.20% on earnings up to the applicable taxable maximum amount (see below). The Medicare portion (HI) is 1.45% on all earnings. Also, as of January 2013, individuals with earned income of more than \$200,000 (\$250,000 for married couples filing jointly) pay an additional 0.9 percent in Medicare taxes. The tax rates shown above do not include the 0.9 percent.

	2019	2020
Maximum Taxable Earnings		
Social Security (OASDI only)	\$132,900	\$137,700
Medicare (HI only)	No Limit	
Quarter of Coverage		
	\$1,360	\$1,410
Retirement Earnings Test Exempt Amounts		
Under full retirement age	\$17,640/yr. (\$1,470/mo.)	\$18,240/yr. (\$1,520/mo.)
NOTE: One dollar in benefits will be withheld for every \$2 in earnings above the limit.		

NOTE: One dollar in benefits will be withheld for every \$2 in earnings above the limit.

Social Security National Press Office Baltimore, MD

	2019	2020
The year an individual reaches full retirement age	\$46,920/yr. (\$3,910/mo.)	\$48,600/yr. (\$4,050/mo.)

NOTE: Applies only to earnings for months prior to attaining full retirement age. One dollar in benefits will be withheld for every \$3 in earnings above the limit.

Beginning the month an individual attains full retirement age.	None
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	2019	2020
Social Security Disability Thresholds		
Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA)		
Non-Blind	\$1,220/mo.	\$1,260/mo.
Blind	\$2,040/mo.	\$2,110/mo.
Trial Work Period (TWP)	\$ 880/mo.	\$ 910/mo.
Maximum Social Security Benefit: Worker Retiring at Full Retirement Age		
	\$2,861/mo.	\$3,011/mo.
SSI Federal Payment Standard		
Individual	\$ 771/mo.	\$ 783/mo.
Couple	\$1,157/mo.	\$1,175/mo.
SSI Resource Limits		
Individual	\$2,000	\$2,000
Couple	\$3,000	\$3,000
SSI Student Exclusion		
Monthly limit	\$1,870	\$1,900
Annual limit	\$7,550	\$7,670
Estimated Average Monthly Social Security Benefits Payable in January 2020		
	Before 1.6% COLA	After 1.6% COLA
All Retired Workers	\$1,479	\$1,503
Aged Couple, Both Receiving Benefits	\$2,491	\$2,531
Widowed Mother and Two Children	\$2,889	\$2,935
Aged Widow(er) Alone	\$1,398	\$1,421
Disabled Worker, Spouse and One or More Children	\$2,144	\$2,178
All Disabled Workers	\$1,238	\$1,258

Business

McDonald's Saipan fetes employees of quarter

By **BEA CABRERA**
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

McDonald's Saipan knows that recognizing the hard work and fruitful efforts of its employees is the heart of their business.

They also know that just like the important ingredients that are put into their products, rewarding these employees is also a vital ingredient to the success of this international fast food chain.

Last month, McDonald's Saipan hosted the Employee of the Quarter Dinner event held at the 360 Revolving Restaurant in Susupe. This was a gathering of McDonald's management and chosen employees for the quarter where the atmosphere was full of casual conversation, laughter, great food that encourages

both parties to get know each other outside of work.

The employees present at the recognition dinner were 2018 4th Quarter awardees Kyle Merrill Garcia of McDonald's Middle Road and Justthis Ayuyu of McDonald's Garapan; 2019 1st Quarter awardees Beah Sebio of McDonald's Middle Road and John Tyrone Rizo of McDonald's Garapan and lastly, 2019 2nd Quarter awardees Norbert Sulapas of McDonald's Middle Road and Kinisoulst Tisa of McDonald's Garapan.

The quarter awardees were joined by McDonald's Saipan and Guam president and owners Jose and Marcia Ayuyu, training coordinator Majellyn Calceta, and executive assistant to the president Mable Glenn.

McDonald's of Guam and Saipan are locally owned and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

McDonald's Saipan and Guam president and owners Jose and Marcia Ayuyu, training coordinator Majellyn Calceta, and executive assistant to the president Mable Glenn give recognition to employees from McDonald's Garapan and Middle Road by hosting Employee of the Quarter Dinner at the 360 Revolving Restaurant in Susupe last month.

operated by franchisees Jose and Marcia Ayuyu and is the leading food service restaurant chain in the Marianas, with over 500 employees.

The organization opened in 1993 and currently operates eight McDonald's branches—two on Saipan located in Garapan and Middle Road and six in Guam with the Yigo Branch which opened in November last year as the latest store.

California governor signs fur sale, circus animal bans

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—California will be the first state to ban the sale and manufacture of new fur products and the third to bar most animals from circus performances under a pair of bills signed Saturday by Gov. Gavin Newsom.

The fur law bars residents from selling or making clothing, shoes or handbags with fur starting in 2023.

Animal rights groups cheered the measure as a stand against inhumane practices. The proposal was vigorously opposed by the billion-dollar U.S. fur industry, and the Fur Information Council of America has already threatened to sue.

It follows Newsom's signing of legislation that makes California the first state to outlaw fur trapping and follows bans on sales of fur in Los Angeles and San Francisco.

"California is a leader when it comes to animal welfare, and today that leadership includes banning the sale of fur," Newsom said in a statement. "But we are doing more than that. We are making a statement to the world that beautiful wild animals like bears and tigers have no place on trapeze wires or jumping through flames."

The fur ban doesn't apply to used products or those used for religious or tribal purposes. And it excludes the sale of leather, dog and cat fur, cowhides, deer, sheep and goat skin and anything preserved through taxidermy.

It could mark a significant blow to the fur industry that

makes products from animals including mink, chinchillas, rabbits and other animals. The U.S. retail fur industry brought in \$1.5 billion in sales in 2014, the most recent data available from the Fur Information Council.

Fashion designers including Versace, Gucci and Giorgio Armani have stopped or say they plan to stop using fur.

Under the California law, there is a fine of up to \$1,000 for multiple violations.

Animal rights groups have said animals may be subject to gassing, electrocution and other inhumane actions to obtain their fur.

Advocacy group Direct Action Everywhere said it's working with activists to pass similar bills in cities nationwide, including Minneapolis and Portland, Oregon, and it's optimistic California's law will spur action.

"Ordinary people want to see animals protected, not abused," said Cassie King, an organizer with the Berkeley-based group.

Opponents of the legislation have said it could create a black market and be a slippery slope to bans on other products.

The ban is part of a "radical vegan agenda using fur as the first step to other bans on what we wear and eat," spokesman Keith Kaplan of the fur information council said in a prior statement. He further said fake fur is not a renewable or sustainable option.

California joins New Jersey and Hawaii in banning most animals from circus per-

formances.

The law exempts domesticated dogs, cats and horses and does not apply to rodeos.

Circuses have been declining in popularity for decades. The most well-known act, the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, closed in 2017 after 146 years of performances.

State officials say at least two circuses that include live animals were scheduled to perform in California this year. At least 18 circuses don't use animals, including Cirque du Soleil.

At first, critics warned the proposal was too broad and would impact county fairs, wildlife rescues or rehabilitation organizations. In response, lawmakers narrowed the definition of circus to include "a performance before a live audience in which entertainment consisting of a variety of acts such as acrobats, aerialists, clowns, jugglers, or stunts is the primary attraction or principal business."

The law includes penalties of up to \$25,000 per day for each violation.

Democratic Sen. Ben Hueso authored the measure, arguing wild animals in circuses endure cruel training and near-constant confinement.

The Southwest California Legislative Council opposed the law, saying it will prevent people from being able "to experience the thrill of a circus performance featuring beautiful, well-cared-for animals."

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals lauded both new laws.

Companies welcome US-China trade truce, warn disputes remain

BEIJING (AP)—Companies have welcomed a U.S.-Chinese trade truce as a possible step toward breaking a deadlock in a 15-month-old tariff war, while economists caution there was little progress toward settling core disputes including technology that threaten global growth.

President Donald Trump said Washington will suspend a tariff hike planned for Tuesday on \$250 billion of Chinese goods. In exchange, Trump said China agreed to buy as much as \$50 billion of American farm goods. Details of other possible agreements weren't immediately released.

The bruising battle over China's trade surplus and technology ambitions has disrupted global trade. Economists warn a final settlement might take years to negotiate. Despite that, financial markets rise ahead of each round of talks and fall back when no progress is reported.

Companies acknowledged Friday's agreement was a modest step and appealed to

both governments to step up efforts to end the fight that is battering manufacturers and farmers.

Washington still is planning a Dec. 15 tariff hike on \$160 billion of smartphones and other imports. Before then, Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping are due to attend an economic conference in Chile in mid-November. That is raising hopes a face-to-face meeting might produce progress.

"Taking tariffs out of the equation for at least the next two months will give space for substantive negotiations," said Jake Parker, senior vice president of the U.S.-China Business Council, an industry group.

Trump said Friday's deal has yet to be put down on paper but said, "We should be able to get that done over the next four weeks."

China's government welcomed "substantial progress" but gave no details of possible agreements.

"I don't think it's a victory, but it eases the situation,"

said economist Yu Chunhai at Renmin University in Beijing. He said both sides want to restore business and consumer confidence.

There was no word of agreements on the core issues that sparked the dispute. Those include U.S. pressure on Beijing to roll back plans for government-led creation of global competitors in robotics, electric cars and other technologies.

"There remains significant work ahead to address many of the most important U.S. trade and investment priorities," Myron Brilliant, executive vice president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, said in a statement. Still, he called Friday's announcement a "ray of hope."

Washington, Europe, Japan and other trading partners say China's plans violate its market-opening obligations and are based on stealing or pressuring companies to hand over technology. Chinese leaders see those tactics as the surest path to prosperity and global influence.

United Airlines cancels flight for Japan

GUAM—Due to expected inclement weather in Japan from Super Typhoon Hagibis, United Airlines has cancelled all flights to/from Japan on Saturday, Oct. 12. United is also expecting additional flight cancellations and schedule changes for flights departing from and arriving at all airports in Japan on Sunday, Oct. 13. These flight schedule changes may also affect flights departing from and arriving at the A. B. Won Pat International Airport, Guam.

United has issued a travel waiver for custom-

ers traveling through the following airports between Oct. 10 and Oct. 13, 2019:

- Fukuoka, Japan (FUK)
- Nagoya, Japan (NGO)
- Osaka, Japan (KIX)
- Tokyo-Narita, Japan (NRT)
- Tokyo-Haneda, Japan (HND)

Due to the unpredictability of the storm's path, United urges our customers to check the latest status of their flights at united.com or by calling United Reservations at 1-800-UNIT-ED-1 (1-800-864-8331). (PR)

Nation

Hotel collapse in New Orleans leaves 1 dead, 2 missing

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A large section of a Hard Rock Hotel under construction beside New Orleans' historic French Quarter collapsed Saturday amid blinding dust and flying debris, killing one person and injuring more than 20. Rescue workers searched the largely unstable building until nightfall for two people still unaccounted for.

Nearby buildings were evacuated. A 270-foot (82-meter) construction crane—one of two still looming over the multistory building—also was dangerously unstable, fire of-

ficials said. The hunt for the missing was suspended at nightfall over safety concerns. A statement from the project contractor said its representatives would work "throughout the night" with emergency officials on a plan to stabilize the building.

"I heard a huge noise and thought it was a plane crashing," said Sue Hurley, a 68-year-old guest at a hostel across the street that shuddered with the force of the collapse. Hurley said she was reminded of news accounts of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

WWL-TV aired and tweeted a viewer's dramatic video of upper floors falling on top of each other before one side of the building crashed to the street.

Another video on social media showed what looked like a metal structure—part of the building or a piece of construction equipment—tumbling to the ground and people running from the scene as clouds of dust billowed up, obscuring the view like a thick fog.

"I'm not sure what happened, but they told us to get out of here," said Michael Arbeiter,

30, from Munich, Germany, a hostel guest who said he was just getting out of the shower when his room shook. "Thank God it was not another 9/11."

Officials said 18 people were taken to the hospital and several others went to the hospital on their own. They said none of their injuries was believed to be life threatening.

Urban search and rescue teams entered a section of the building Saturday in hopes of finding the two missing people alive, said Fire Chief Tim McConnell. He said authorities believe they know

their approximate location based on talks with other survivors of the collapse. One of the two was believed to be in a relatively stable part of the wrecked building; the other, in a less stable area.

Meanwhile, authorities were keeping a wary eye on an unstable construction crane looming over the building.

"There is a very strong possibility of further collapse of this crane right now," McConnell said.

Citadel Builders LLC, the contractor on the project, said more than 100 workers were on site at the time of the collapse. An email from spokesman Brian Trascher said company officials were working with emergency workers on a

plan to stabilize the building.

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards visited the site and took part in news briefings soon after the collapse. The Democrat was defending his seat in a primary election Saturday against two major Republican opponents. Edwards was hoping for an outright win to avoid a November runoff.

The new Hard Rock Hotel was under construction at the corner of Rampart Street and Canal Street, a broad boulevard just outside the Quarter that is lined with restaurants, hotels and retailers. Canal, which carries six lanes of traffic divided by a wide median where streetcars roll, separates the Quarter from the city's main business district.



Debris hangs on the side of the building after a large portion of a hotel under construction suddenly collapsed in New Orleans on Saturday, Oct. 12, 2019.

ACROSS THE NATION

Authorities: 3 deaths tied to Southern California wildfires

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Three people have died at the scene of Southern California wildfires this week, authorities said Saturday, as firefighters aided by diminishing winds beat back a blaze on the edge of Los Angeles that damaged or destroyed more than 30 structures and sent a blanket of smoke across a swath of neighborhoods. Los Angeles officials said the fire in the city's San Fernando Valley area hadn't grown significantly since Friday, and ground crews were tamping down lingering hotspots. Evacuation orders were lifted in all of Los Angeles County and in parts of Riverside County, where a second blaze was burning. Shortly before 5 p.m., the Los Angeles Police Department said in a tweet: "We thank members of the community for promptly heeding the evacuation orders and their patience as we worked to contain the fire." Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti told residents to be cautious returning home to neighborhoods where fire crews could still be operating.

Chicago police: 4 dead, 1 wounded in apartment shooting

CHICAGO (AP)—Chicago police say five people were shot, four killed, at an apartment building on the city's Northwest Side. The Chicago Sun-Times reports the shooting happened around 5:30 p.m. Saturday. First Deputy Superintendent Anthony Riccio says a 67-year-old man with a history of

issues with his neighbors is in custody. Riccio says the man first went into an apartment and shot three men and a woman as they ate dinner. The man then went to a separate unit in the building and shot another woman. Police say one victim is in critical condition. A weapon was recovered. Riccio says the man had a history of complaints from other residents but investigators "don't know what set him off." Police say the victims were all adults, though their names have not been released. Mayor Lori Lightfoot called the shooting "devastating." An investigation is ongoing.

Late teen's family wants US diplomat's wife to lose immunity

LONDON (AP)—The parents of British teenager who was killed in a traffic accident involving an American diplomat's wife are planning a trip to the United States as they lobby for the woman's legal immunity to be lifted. Harry Dunn was riding a motorcycle that collided with a car outside a British air force base in England. The August crash killed the 19-year-old Dunn. The diplomat's wife subsequently left Britain. His family appealed Saturday for anyone who saw her departure to share information. Dunn's parents, Charlotte Charles and Tim Dunn, say they are going to New York and Washington to build support and to pressure U.S. authorities "to do the right thing." President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that U.S. officials would talk to the woman, whose name hasn't been officially released.

Trump backs Giuliani, but some aides wish he would cut ties

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump on Saturday stood behind personal attorney Rudy Giuliani, one of his highest-profile and most vocal defenders, amid reports that federal prosecutors in the city Giuliani led as mayor are eyeing him for possible lobbying violations.

Behind the scenes, however, many of Trump's closest aides and advisers, inside and outside the White House, quietly wish the president would cut ties with Giuliani, whose leadership of New York after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks earned him worldwide admiration and the moniker of "America's mayor."

Giuliani was a force in Trump's defense during the lengthy Russia investigation by the special counsel. Yet the effort to undermine special counsel Robert Mueller led Gi-

uliani to Ukraine, which now entangles the former federal prosecutor and mayor in legal jeopardy and is central to the danger threatening the presidency he labored to protect.

The New York Times reported Friday, citing a pair of anonymous sources familiar with the matter, that the investigation is linked to Giuliani's efforts to undermine Marie Yovanovitch, formerly the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine. The U.S. attorney's office in Manhattan has declined to comment on the Times report.

Two Florida businessmen with ties to Giuliani were charged Thursday with federal campaign finance violations. Both played key roles in Giuliani's efforts to get Ukraine to launch a corruption investigation into Democratic presidential contender

Joe Biden and his son Hunter, who sat on the board of a gas company there.

On Saturday, Trump deployed in Giuliani's defense the same two-word phrase — "Witch Hunt!" — he repeatedly used to attack the legitimacy of the special counsel investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election and now the House impeachment inquiry against him.

"So now they are after the legendary 'crime buster' and greatest Mayor in the history of NYC, Rudy Giuliani," Trump tweeted while on the way to his northern Virginia golf club. "He may seem a little rough around the edges sometimes, but he is also a great guy and wonderful lawyer."

Later Saturday, he told Jeanine Pirro during a telephone interview broadcast on

her Fox News Channel program that Giuliani continues as his lawyer.

"He's a great gentleman. He was a great mayor, one of the greatest, maybe the greatest mayor in the history of New York," the president said. "He was a fantastic prosecutor. I know nothing about him being under investigation ... I can't imagine it."

"He's a man that looks for corruption and whatever he does I really believe he's a totally, I mean, I know he's an honorable man," Trump added.

A whistleblower complaint about Trump's dealings with Ukraine led Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to open an impeachment inquiry into the president.

Three House committees taking depositions in the impeachment probe heard Friday from Yovanovitch.

Asia

Japan launches major rescue after ‘immense’ typhoon floods

TOKYO (AP)—Helicopters plucked people from their flooded homes on Sunday as rescue efforts went into full force in wide areas of Japan after a powerful typhoon unleashed heavy rainfall on Tokyo and surrounding areas, leaving at least seven dead and 15 missing.

Public broadcaster NHK gave a higher toll than the government of 10 dead and 16 missing plus 128 injured as more details were coming in the from field, a day after Typhoon Hagibis made landfall south of Tokyo and moved northward.

“The major typhoon has caused immense damage far and wide in eastern Japan,” government spokesman Yoshihide Suga told reporters, adding that 27,000 military troops and other rescue crews were deployed for the operation.

TOKYO (AP)—A heavy downpour and strong winds pounded Tokyo and surrounding areas on Saturday as a powerful typhoon forecast to be Japan’s worst in six decades made landfall and passed over the capital, where streets, nearby beaches and train stations were long deserted.

Store shelves were bare



AP
Students and residents scoop dirt as the town is flooded Typhoon Hagibis, in Marumori, Miyagi prefecture, northern Japan, Sunday, Oct. 13, 2019.

after people stocked up on water and food ahead of Typhoon Hagibis. The Japan Meteorological Agency warned of dangerously heavy rainfall in Tokyo and surrounding prefectures, including Gunma, Saitama and Kanagawa, and later expanded the area to include Fukushima and Miyagi

to the north. A coastal earthquake also rattled the area.

“Be ready for rainfall of the kind that you have never experienced,” said meteorological agency official Yasushi Kajihara, adding that areas usually safe from disasters may prove vulnerable.

“Take all measures neces-

sary to save your life,” he said.

Kajihara said people who live near rivers should take shelter on the second floor or higher of any sturdy building if an officially designated evacuation center wasn’t easily accessible.

■ ■ ■

News footage showed a rescue helicopter hovering in a flooded area in Nagano prefecture where an embankment

of the Chikuma River broke, and streams of water were continuing to spread over residential areas. The chopper plucked those stranded on the second floor of a home submerged in muddy waters.

Aerial footage showed tractors at work trying to control the flooding. Meanwhile, rows of Japan’s prized bullet trains, parked in a facility, were sitting in a pool of water.

A stretch of Fukushima, in the city of Date, was also flooded with only rooftops of residential homes visible in some areas. Parts of nearby Miyagi prefecture were also under water.

The Tama River, which runs by Tokyo, overflowed its banks.

Authorities warned of a risk of mudslides. Among the reported deaths were those whose homes were buried in landslides. Other fatalities included people who got swept away by raging rivers.

Suga said that damage to housing from the flooding was extensive but promised recovery was on its way. Some 376,000 homes were without electricity, and 14,000 homes lacked running water, he said.

Boats as well as helicopters were sent to the flooded areas, while rescue crew dug through dirt in other areas to try to get people out from homes buried by landslides.

Several train service in the Tokyo area resumed early morning, although others were undergoing safety checks and were expected to restart later Sunday.

Modi tells Xi relations are stable, differences manageable

MAMALLAPURAM, India (AP)—Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi told visiting Chinese President Xi Jinping on Saturday that relations between their countries have attained stability and momentum in the past year, and that it should enable them to manage their differences and avoid disputes.

The two leaders avoided the vexed Kashmir dispute from clouding their summit in the seaside temple town of Mamallapuram. Modi said both countries agreed to be sensitive to each other’s concerns as they held delegation-level talks.

Modi and Xi were meeting at a time of tensions over Beijing’s support for Pakistan, India’s archrival, in opposing New Delhi’s downgrading of Kashmir’s semi-autonomy and continuing restrictions in the disputed region.

Indian Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale told reporters that “this issue was not raised and discussed,” but that Xi apprised Modi of Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan’s visit to Beijing earlier in the week.

“India-China relations are

not predicated to a single issue,” Gokhale said, adding that the latest developments in Kashmir were an internal matter of India.

Without going into details, Xi said in his opening remarks at the delegation-level talks that he had taken part in candid and in-depth discussions with Modi on various issues since his arrival Friday.

Gokhale said the two countries decided to set up a group at the finance ministers’ level to discuss trade and investment issues, especially India facing a whopping \$63 billion trade deficit with China.

According to India’s Commerce Ministry, India’s exports to China amounted to \$13.33 billion in the 2018 financial year, compared with imports of \$76.38 billion.

Xi and Modi met over dinner for more than two hours on Friday after the Indian prime minister took the Chinese president around an ancient temple and some other monuments that are part of UNESCO’s world heritage sites in Mamallapuram.

Besides emphasizing the expansion of trade and invest-

ment, Modi and Xi resolved to work together in facing the challenges of radicalization and terrorism, Gokhale said.

There was an acknowledgement that both India and China were “very complex and very diverse countries,” and that both will work together so that radicalization and terrorism does not affect their multicultural, multiethnic and multireligious societies, Gokhale said. He did not give details.

Tensions in Kashmir, which is divided between Pakistan and India but claimed by both in its entirety, have escalated since August, when India downgraded the semi-autonomy of Indian-administered Kashmir and imposed a security and communications lockdown.

China supported Pakistan in raising India’s actions at the U.N. General Assembly meeting in New York. China said India should not act unilaterally in Kashmir, a portion of which China also controls.

Xi arrived in India two days after hosting Pakistani Prime Minister Khan in Beijing.

In Hong Kong, all trust gone between police and protesters

HONG KONG (AP)—As a police van sped past them, the 90-year-old woman and her 60-year-old daughter raised their fists, pointed their thumbs very deliberately down and yelled, “Triads!”

That silver-haired women in Hong Kong no longer think twice about openly accusing officers of being in cahoots with mafia gangs shows how public trust in the city’s 30,000-strong police force, once considered among the finest in Asia, has been catastrophically damaged in the storm of protest gripping the international business hub.

In trying to end the anti-government demonstrations, which broke out in multiple locations again on Saturday and are now in their fifth month, one of the most pressing problems to solve for Hong Kong leaders will be dispelling the now widespread public scorn for police officers. Protest graffiti likening officers to dogs and worse is all over the city, and protesters Saturday chanted for the force to be disbanded.

Overall, Saturday’s rallies were lower-key and more peaceful than other far larger and more violent protests that have rocked the semi-autonomous Chinese territory. Riot police deployed but stayed far behind the day’s largest rally, which drew thousands of peaceful marchers in Kowloon.

Police said rioters tossing gasoline bombs damaged a subway station, but there was no repeat of the more intense destruction and battles between protesters and police that have spread across Hong Kong.

Still, restoring any semblance of trust between police officers and the 7.5 million people they are sworn to serve and protect is going to be a long, hard battle.

Demonstrators widely decry the force’s policing of the hundreds of protests that began in early June as thuggish, with more than 2,300 people arrested. Its liberal use of tear gas and what has become a familiar sight of officers in full riot gear pursuing young protesters and making mus-

cular, sometimes brutish arrests has come as a shock to a city that long prided itself on being safe.

“They beat the butts out of people,” said the 90-year-old woman, Cheng Liang Yu, who angrily shouted at the passing police van with her 60-year-old daughter, Dorothy Lau.

One of Lau’s daughters is a part-time police officer. Lau has her photo, proudly saluting in her police uniform, stored on her cellphone. But she was equally dismissive of the force her daughter serves.

“They’re too violent,” she said.

Together with another of Lau’s daughters, Liz Yuen, the women joined a protest of about 200 people, many of them retirees, outside the towering police headquarters in central Hong Kong on Saturday. The peaceful rally held a minute’s silence for victims of what protesters described as police abuse. Photos taped on the sidewalk showed X-rays of fractured bones that protesters alleged were broken in police custody.

World

President orders army onto streets of Ecuadorian capital

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)—Ecuador's army took to the streets after President Lenin Moreno ordered the first 24-hour curfew in decades in response to a day of attacks on government buildings and media offices.

By Saturday night, soldiers had retaken control of the park and streets leading to the National Assembly and the national comptroller's office, which had been broken into by protesters who lit fires inside the building.

Moreno said the military would enforce the round the clock curfew in Quito and around critical infrastructure like power stations and hospitals in response to the day's violence. It was the first such action imposed since a series of coups in the 1960s and '70s.

"We are going to restore order in all of Ecuador," Moreno said.

Late Saturday night, Moreno announced some possible concessions in an economic package that was opposed by many Ecuadorians. But he didn't retract his decision to remove fuel subsidies, a step that triggered the nationwide protests and clashes.

Moreno said his govern-



Anti-government demonstrators walk after being asked by security forces to leave El Arbolito park in Quito, Ecuador, Saturday, Oct. 12, 2019.

ment would address some concerns of protesters, studying ways to ensure resources reach rural areas and offering compensation for those who lost earnings because of the recent upheaval.

"We'll negotiate with those

who have decided to do so," Moreno said in remarks broadcast on radio and television. "The process is moving forward and I hope to give you good news soon, because different organizations and sectors have confirmed their will-

ingness to talk."

For many in Ecuador, which had become one of the safest and most stable countries in the region, the day's violence was a terrifying shock.

"Quito had a very hard day, of much tension and fear for

its citizens," Interior Minister Maria Paula Romo said. "What we saw today we haven't seen before."

About two hours after the comptroller's office was attacked, a group of several dozen masked men swarmed the

offices of the private Telemazonas television station in northern Quito, set fires on the grounds and tried to break into the building where about 20 employees were trapped.

The offices of the newspaper El Comercio in southern Quito were also attacked, with the building's security guards were seized and briefly bound before police arrived and drove off the assailants. Police also halted the attack on Telemazonas.

Following hours of chaos, Moreno appeared on national television alongside his vice president and defense minister to announce that he was ordering people indoors and the army onto the streets.

Moreno said the masked protesters had nothing to do with the thousands of indigenous Ecuadorians who have protested for more than a week over a sudden rise in fuel prices as part of an International Monetary Fund-backed austerity package. He blamed the violence on drug traffickers, organized crime and followers of former President Rafael Correa, who has denied allegations he is trying to topple Moreno's government.

Turkish forces say they've captured key Syrian border town

CEYLANPINAR, Turkey (AP)—Turkey's military said it captured a key Syrian border town under heavy bombardment Saturday in its most significant gain since an offensive against Kurdish fighters began four days ago, with no sign of relenting despite mounting international criticism.

Turkish troops entered central Ras al-Ayn, according to Turkey's Defense Ministry and a war monitor group. The ministry tweeted: "Ras al-Ayn's residential center has been taken under control through the successful operations in the east of Euphrates" River. It marked the biggest gain made by Turkey since the invasion began Wednesday.

The continued push by Turkey into Syria comes days after President Donald Trump pulled U.S. forces out of the area, making Turkey's air and ground offensive possible, and said he wanted to stop getting involved with "endless wars." Trump's decision drew swift bipartisan criticism that he was endangering regional stability and risking the lives of Syrian Kurdish allies who brought down the Islamic State group in Syria. The Kurdish-led Syrian Demo-

cratic Forces was the main U.S. ally in the fight and lost 11,000 fighters in the nearly five-year battle against IS.

Turkish troops and allied Syrian opposition fighters have made gains recently capturing several northern villages in fighting and bombardment that left dozens of people killed or wounded. The invasion also has forced nearly 100,000 people to flee their homes amid concerns that IS might take advantage of the chaos and try to rise again after its defeat in Syria earlier this year.

The Syrian Democratic Forces, or SDF, said the United States should carry out its "moral responsibilities" and close northern Syrian airspace to Turkish warplanes, but that it didn't want the U.S. to send its soldiers "to the front lines and put their lives in danger."

During a meeting Saturday in Cairo, the 22-member Arab League condemned what it described as "Turkey's aggression against Syria" and warned that Ankara will be responsible for the spread of terrorism following its invasion. The league said Arab states might take some measures against Ankara. It called on the U.N. Security Council to force Turkey to

stop the offensive.

The Turkish offensive was widely criticized by Syria and some Western countries, which called on Turkey to cease its military operations.

France's defense and foreign ministries said Saturday that the country was halting exports of any arms to Turkey that could be used in its offensive.

Foreign Minister Heiko Maas also announced that Germany would curtail its arms exports to Turkey. Maas told the weekly Bild am Sonntag that "against the background of the Turkish military offensive in northeastern Syria, the government will not issue any new permissions for any weapons that can be used by Turkey in Syria."

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Friday that Turkey won't stop until the Syrian Kurdish forces withdraw at least 32 kilometers (20 miles) from the border.

During the capture of Ras al-Ayn's residential center, an Associated Press journalist across the border heard sporadic clashes as Turkish howitzers struck the town and Turkish jets screeched overhead. Syrian Kurdish forces appeared to be holding out in some areas of the town.

Iran says missiles strike its oil tanker off Saudi Arabia

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran said Friday two missiles struck one of its oil tankers traveling through the Red Sea off the coast of Saudi Arabia, a mysterious assault not immediately corroborated that still spiked oil prices amid months of heightened tensions at sea across the wider Mideast.

There was no acknowledgment of the incident from Saudi Arabia, which in September had more than half of its daily crude oil production knocked out by an assault the U.S. blamed on Iran, something denied by Tehran.

All the attacks came after President Donald Trump's decision to unilaterally withdraw America from Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers and impose crushing sanctions targeting Iran's crude oil sales and shipments. Iranian officials warned for weeks that if they couldn't sell their oil, neither would anyone else in the region.

"This latest incident, if confirmed to be an act of aggression, is highly likely to be part of the wider narrative of deteriorating relations between Saudi and the U.S. and Iran," private maritime security firm Dryad Maritime warned.

"It is likely that the region ... will face another period of

increasing maritime threats, as the Iranian and Saudi geopolitical stand-off continues," it added.

U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper said the U.S. will send fighter jets and additional air defenses to the Saudis to help defend the kingdom against Iran amid the heightened tensions. He called Saudi Arabia a longstanding security partner in the region.

The attack reportedly took place around 5 a.m. and damaged two storerooms aboard the oil tanker Sabiti, state media reported. It also briefly caused an oil leak into the Red Sea near the Saudi port city of Jiddah that later was stopped, state-run IRNA news agency reported.

The Sabiti turned on its tracking devices late Friday morning in the Red Sea, putting its location some 130 kilometers (80 miles) southwest of Jiddah, according to data from MarineTraffic.com. The ship is carrying some 1 million barrels of crude oil, according to an analysis from data firm Refinitiv.

The Sabiti last turned on its tracking devices in August near the Iranian port city of Bandar Abbas. Iranian tankers routinely turn off their trackers as U.S. sanctions target the

sale of Iran's crude oil.

Images released by Iran's Petroleum Ministry appeared to show no damage to the Sabiti visible from its bridge, though they did not show the ship's sides. Satellite images of the area showed no visible smoke.

The ministry's SHANA news agency said no ship nor any authority in the area responded to its distress messages.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi described the incident Friday as an "attack" carried out by those committing "dangerous adventurism." In a statement, Mousavi said the Sabiti was struck twice in the span of a half hour and an investigation was underway.

Iranian authorities did not say who they suspected of launching the missiles, suggesting officials were waiting to assess the incident while waiting for a visit by Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan on Saturday.

Khan met Iranian President Hassan Rouhani in September on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly. He also met him on an April visit to Tehran. Khan has been seeking to serve as a go-between for Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Health & Wellness

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Grilled salmon.

Are you getting too much protein?

Judging by all the protein bars, shakes and powders out there, you get the impression you need more protein. There are claims it curbs appetite, helps with weight loss and builds muscle. But what's the real story?

"Contrary to all the hype that everyone needs more protein, most Americans get twice as much as they need," said Kristi Wempen, a Mayo Clinic Health System registered dietitian nutritionist. "This is especially true for males 14-70 years of age, who the 2015 Dietary Guidelines for Americans advise to decrease meat, poultry and egg consumption. Even athletes are often getting more protein than they need, without supplements, because their calorie require-

ments are higher. And with more food comes more protein."

True or false: Big steak equals bigger muscles

Although adequate protein throughout the day is necessary, extra strength training is what leads to muscle growth—not extra protein intake. You can't build muscle without the exercise to go with it.

"The body can't store protein, so once needs are met, any extra is used for energy or stored as fat," added Wempen. "Excess calories from any source will be stored as fat in the body."

Wempen explains extra protein intake also can lead to elevated blood lipids and heart disease, because many high-protein foods are high in total fat and saturated fat. Extra protein intake, which can tax the kidneys, poses an additional risk to individuals

predisposed to kidney disease.

How much protein do you need?

Anywhere from 10 to 35 percent of your calories should come from protein. So, if your needs are 2,000 calories, that's 200-700 calories from protein (50-175 grams). The recommended dietary allowance to prevent deficiency for an average sedentary adult is 0.8 grams per kilogram of body weight. For example, a person who weighs 75 kilograms (165 pounds) should consume 60 grams of protein per day.

"Once you hit 40-50 years old, sarcopenia starts to set in, which means you start losing muscle mass as you age," Wempen said. "To help prevent this and to maintain independence and quality of life, your protein needs increase to about 1 gram per kilogram of body weight."

People who exercise regularly

also have higher needs, about 1.1-1.5 grams per kilogram. People who lift weights regularly or are training for a running or cycling event need 1.2-1.7 grams per kilogram. Excessive protein intake would be more than 2 grams per kilogram of body weight each day.

"If you are overweight, your weight is adjusted before calculating your protein needs in order to avoid overestimating," Wempen said. "You can see a dietitian to help develop a personalized plan."

Where does protein come from?

Wempen says the healthiest protein options are plant sources, such as:

- Soy, nuts, seeds, beans and lentils
- Lean meats, such as skinless, white-meat chicken or turkey, and lean cuts of beef or pork
- A variety of fish
- Egg whites
- Low-fat dairy

"Meet your dietary protein needs with these whole foods as opposed to supplements," she said. "Supplements are no more effective than food as long as energy intake is adequate for building lean mass. Manufactured foods don't contain everything you need from food, nor do manufacturers know everything that should be in food. There may be compounds in real foods that we haven't even discovered yet that may be beneficial for the body. So always be careful of foods created in a lab."

When is the best time to consume protein?

Wempen recommends that you spread out protein consumption evenly throughout the day. On average, she says, people tend to get most of their protein during evening meals and the least at breakfast. Certain recent studies show moving some protein from supper

to breakfast can help with weight management by decreasing hunger and cravings throughout the day. Of course, more research is needed before these claims can be verified.

General recommendations are to consume 15-25 grams of protein at meals and in the early recovery phase (anabolic window)—45 minutes to one hour after a workout. Studies show higher intakes (more than 40 grams) are no more beneficial than the recommended 15-25 grams at one time. Don't waste your money on excessive amounts.

What if I do want to use a protein supplement?

If you want to use a protein supplement, Wempen advises to look for:

- About 200 or less calories
- 2 grams or less of saturated fat
- No trans fat or partially hydrogenated oils
- 5 grams of sugar or less

What does 15-25 grams of protein in whole foods look like? Eating a banana, Greek yogurt and a hard-boiled egg will get you 19 grams of protein on average. A three-ounce chicken breast with a half cup rice and half cup vegetables amounts to 25 grams of protein. The recommended 15-25 grams per meal or post-workout snack is attainable. If these were meals, you would want to balance them out by including all food groups: protein, grain, dairy, fruit and vegetables. Most people—even athletes—can reach their protein needs by including a serving of dairy at each meal and a piece of meat the size of a deck of cards at lunch and supper.

"Protein should be an accompaniment to fruits, vegetables and whole grains. It should not be the entire meal," Wempen said. (*Mayo Clinic News Network*)



Boiled edamame beans.



Flu activity across the U.S. is low, making it the perfect time to roll up your sleeve for your annual flu shot.

Infectious diseases A-Z: Roll up your sleeve, it's time for your flu shot

When is the best time to get your flu shot? Ideally, it's before flu season becomes active in your community.

Flu activity across the U.S. is low, making it the perfect time to roll up your sleeve for your annual flu shot. "The general advice is get the vaccine as soon as you can," says Dr. Gregory Poland, director of Mayo Clinic's Vaccine Research Group. "People often wait to see if it's a bad flu year. The problem is you don't get to predict when you're going to be exposed. And in today's world, you're around hundreds to thousands of people every day.

Our recommendation is as soon as the vaccine is available, get immunized."

It takes about two weeks for your body to build immunity after receiving the vaccine. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone be immunized against flu by the end of October.

"The recommendation in the U.S. is that everybody age 6 months and older every year get a flu vaccine," says Dr. Poland.

While the flu vaccine is not 100% effective, it saves thousands

of lives and prevents illness and hospitalizations each year. The CDC estimates that from Oct. 1, 2018, through May 4, there were 37.4 million to 42.9 million reported cases of flu-related illnesses and 36,400 to 61,200 deaths attributed to the flu.

"Would you get in your car without putting a seat belt on or having air bags, even though those (safety devices) aren't 100%? They are the best we have," says Dr. Poland. "It's the best way we know to protect ourselves." (*Mayo Clinic News Network*)

Life & Style

Ethiopia's reformist PM Abiy Ahmed wins Nobel peace prize

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP)—The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded Friday to a dynamic young African leader whose sweeping reforms and surprising embrace of a bitter rival have been praised as an inspiration to the continent and a hopeful counterpoint to strongman movements far beyond it.

Now the task for Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed

is reining in the ethnic violence that followed the loosening of repressive controls, and resisting any urge to crack down. "He deserves it and the new challenge is keeping it," one outspoken African activist, Nigerian Shehu Sani, said of the award.



Ahmed

Abiy, a favorite to win despite speculation about young climate activist Greta Thunberg, told the Nobel committee he was humbled and thrilled to receive its 100th peace prize, calling peace "a rare commodity in our region." He hoped the award would encourage other

African leaders.

His countrymen, even some critics, celebrated. "We are proud as a nation!!!" his office said.

The 43-year-old prime minister has embraced the concept of "medemer," a term in Ethiopia's Amharic language that means unity and inclusivity, and has lived it. The son of a Muslim and an Orthodox Christian, and of mixed ethnic heritage, he is a symbol of what he would like to achieve in a country of some 80 ethnicities and some 110 million people. That fractious mix could also bring him down.

"No doubt some people will think this year's prize is being awarded too early," the Nobel committee said. But "it is now that Abiy Ahmed's efforts deserve recognition and need encouragement."

Abiy seemed to come out of nowhere, taking office in early 2018 after widespread protests pressured Ethiopia's longtime ruling coalition and hurt one of the world's fastest growing economies. Within weeks, Africa's youngest leader shocked the long-turbulent Horn of Africa region by fully accepting a peace deal ending a 20-year border war with neighboring

Eritrea that saw some 80,000 people killed.

Suddenly, one of the world's longest-running conflicts was ending.

The visibly moved Eritrean president, Isaias Afwerki, soon visited Addis Ababa and diplomatic, communications and transport links were restored. For the first time in two decades, long-divided families made tearful reunions.

Shepard Smith leaves Fox News Channel

NEW YORK (AP)—Shepard Smith, whose newscast on Fox News Channel seemed increasingly an outlier on a network dominated by supporters of President Donald Trump, abruptly quit after signing off his final newscast on Friday.

Smith, who had signed a contract extension last spring, said that he had asked the network to let him out of his deal and it had agreed.

"Even in our currently polarized nation, it's my hope

that the facts will win the day, that the truth will always matter, that journalism and journalists will thrive," he said.



Smith

His departure comes one day after Attorney General William Barr met privately with media mogul Rupert Murdoch, founder of Fox News, although Smith's representatives cautioned against conflating the two events.

Trump has been increasingly critical of personalities on Fox News that he views

as disloyal. On Thursday, the president cited Smith and Fox analysts Andrew Napolitano and Donna Brazile in a tweet that said, "Fox News doesn't deliver for US anymore. It is so different than it used to be."

Asked about it later, Trump said, "Is he leaving? Oh, that's a shame. Is he leaving because he had bad ratings?"

Smith's show averaged nearly 1.3 million viewers the last three months, the Nielsen company said. That beats CNN and MSNBC. Fox's prime-time lineup, with more viewers available, generally gets around 3 million viewers.

Jennifer Aniston, Mariah Carey honored at women's event

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Jennifer Aniston, Ellen DeGeneres, Awkwafina and more stars overcame a dysfunctional teleprompter to toast one another and their charities at a women's luncheon Friday in Beverly Hills.

"I'm fine but Jen (Aniston) is freaking it back there," DeGeneres said as harried staff struggled to fix the broken screens that just a few minutes earlier had Awkwafina nervously winging it ("I can do a little tech support," she offered) before calling

someone to just bring up her phone so she could read her speech manually.

But there's nothing like a few comedians to handle technological issues with grace and humor. Both had the crowd in stitches despite the minor chaos happening around them.

The 11th annual Variety Power of Women luncheon honoring Aniston, Awkwafina, Chaka Khan, Mariah Carey, Brie Larson and Disney Television Studios chairman Dana Walden boasted

a roster of A-list guests and presenters from DeGeneres, to Natalie Portman and Ryan Murphy who charmed and inspired the well-heeled crowd of entertainers and industry insiders with speeches about their charitable causes and their commitment to empowering women in the industry.

Aniston was introduced by DeGeneres, who kept things light and didn't mention the recent social media uproar around her friendship with George W. Bush.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

George Clooney calls Trump's quip on Kurds 'pretty shocking'

HELSINKI (AP)—George Clooney said on Thursday he was appalled U.S. President Donald Trump partly justified the decision to withdraw U.S. troops from Syria by stating Kurds "didn't help us with Normandy" during World War II. The politically active Hollywood actor, director and producer told a business seminar in Finland's capital that he found Trump's words from a day earlier "a pretty shocking statement." Clooney accused Washington of leaving the allies of U.S. forces in Syria to deal alone with Turkey's military offensive. "I'm horrified at the idea we would

say that after having Kurds fight our battle for us—because we don't want to send troops there—and then say, 'OK, you're on your own,'" he said. Clooney was interviewed at the Nordic Business Forum in Helsinki in front of some 7,000-strong audience of mostly business and corporate leaders.

5 rappers removed from NYC festival at request of police

NEW YORK (AP)—Organizers of a hip-hop festival taking place in New York this weekend said Saturday they have dropped five rappers from the lineup at the request of police. The New York Times reported that the

performers were removed from the Rolling Loud festival after a New York Police Department official sent the organizers a letter citing safety concerns if the rappers took the stage. The traveling Rolling Loud festival was scheduled for Saturday and Sunday at Citi Field in Queens on Saturday and Sunday and included major acts like Wu-Tang Clan and Meek Mill. The performers who were dropped are 22Gz, Casanova, Pop Smoke, Sheff G and Don Q. The police letter said they "have been affiliated with recent acts of violence citywide." The Times said Rolling Loud confirmed receipt of the letter and said the artists would not perform.

The Nobel Peace Prize 2019

The Nobel Peace Prize 2019 was awarded to **Abiy Ahmed Ali**, "for his efforts to achieve peace and international cooperation, and in particular for his decisive initiative to resolve the border conflict with Eritrea." Abiy Ahmed Ali was born in 1976 in Ethiopia and is currently the Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.



Here is a list of some of the past winners and their achievements

2017 - International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN): For its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its groundbreaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons.

2016 - Juan Manuel Santos: For his resolute efforts to bring the country's more than 50-year-long civil war to an end.

2015 - National Dialogue Quartet: For its decisive contribution to the building of a pluralistic democracy in Tunisia in the wake of the Jasmine Revolution of 2011.

2014 - Kailash Satyarthi / Malala Yousafzai: For their struggle against the suppression of children and young people and for the right of all children to education.

2010 - Liu Xiaobo: For his long and non-violent struggle for fundamental human rights in China.

2004 - Wangari Maathai: For her contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace.

2000 - Kim Dae-jung: For his work for democracy and human rights in South Korea and in East Asia in general, and for peace and reconciliation with North Korea in particular.

1993 - Frederik Willem de Klerk, Nelson Mandela: For their work for the peaceful termination of the apartheid regime, and for laying the foundations for a new democratic South Africa.

1990 - Mikhail Gorbachev: For his leading role in the peace process which today characterizes important parts of the international community.

1985 - International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War
1979 - Mother Teresa

1975 - Andrei Dmitriyevich Sakharov: For his opposition to the abuse of power and his work for human rights in the Soviet Union.

1970 - Norman E. Borlaug: Borlaug recommended improved methods of cultivation, and developed a robust strain of wheat, that was adapted to Mexican as well as India and Pakistan conditions. By 1956 Mexico had become self-sufficient in wheat.

1965 - United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

1960 - Albert John Lutuli: Inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolence, he became the spokesman of a campaign of civil disobedience directed against South Africa's policy of racial segregation.

1930 - Lars Olof Jonathan (Nathan) Söderblom: For being the leader behind the Universal Conference on Life and Work in Stockholm in 1925, a church meeting which declared its support for efforts to bring about an international system of justice and arbitration.

1920 - Léon Victor Auguste Bourgeois: A campaigner for a League of Nations. During World War I, Bourgeois drew up a proposal for a global organization that would secure peace.

1910 - Bureau international permanent de la Paix (Permanent International Peace Bureau)

1901 - Jean Henry Dunant, Frédéric Passy: Dunant, founder of the Red Cross. Passy, one of the founders of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, an organization for cooperation between the elected representatives of different countries.

Source: Nobelprize.org
Graphic: Tribune News Service

2 Nobel literature prize winners

STOCKHOLM (AP)—Nobel Prizes for literature were awarded Thursday to two writers enmeshed in Europe's social and political fault lines: a liberal Pole who has irked her country's conservative government and an Austrian accused by many liberals of being an apologist for Serbian war crimes.

The rare double announcement—with the 2018 prize going to Poland's Olga Tokarczuk and the 2019 award



Tokarczuk

to Austria's Peter Handke—came after no literature prize was awarded last year due to sex abuse allegations that rocked the Swedish Academy, which awards the literature prize.

Yet if prize organizers hoped to get through this year's awards without controversy, they will likely be disappointed. The Swedish Academy called Handke "one of the most influential writers in Europe" and praised his work for exploring "the periphery and the specificity of human experience."

But the 76-year-old author has long faced criticism for his vigorous defense of the Serbs during the 1990s wars that devastated the Balkans as Yugoslavia disintegrated. He spoke at the 2006 funeral of former Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic, who at the time was facing war crimes charges, calling him "a rather tragic man."

Handke

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Sue Monk Kidd's next novel imagines a married Jesus

Report says driver's recklessness caused crash injuring Kevin Hart

LOS ANGELES

(AP)—A man driving Kevin Hart's vintage muscle car accelerated recklessly on a Southern California highway, causing the accident that left the comedian, driver and



Hart

another passenger seriously injured, investigators said in a report released Thursday.

Jared Black was turning on to Mulholland Highway near Malibu early on Sept. 1 when he accelerated and lost control while driving the comic actor's 1970 Plymouth Barracuda with Hart and Black's fiancée, Rebecca Broxterman, as passengers, the report from the California Highway Patrol said.

The car then careened down an embankment and slammed into a tree, the report said. Evidence from an examination of the Plymouth suggested no one had been wearing seatbelts.

"I have nothing but love for Jared and wish him and Rebecca a speedy recovery," Hart said in a statement released through his attorney later Thursday.

Authorities previously said that Hart, 40, and Black, 28, suffered major back injuries while Broxterman, 31, had less serious injuries.

Hart's attorney, Andrew Brettler, told The Associated Press on Thursday that the actor is doing OK, still recovering from his injuries and doing physical therapy at home. Hart is limiting his profes-

sional commitments but expects to be back at work by the beginning of next year, Brettler said.

The report reiterated that Black was not under the influence of alcohol or drugs. It said he violated the law, but did not say whether charges were likely.

The CHP redacted the statements given to investigators by the three people involved, along with all details about their injuries.

Neither Black nor Broxterman could be reached for comment. It was not clear whether either had an attorney or other representative who could speak for them.

No other cars were involved in the crash.

Black made a right turn at about 12:45 a.m. on to Mulholland Highway in the Barracuda that had recently been modified and modernized and had a 6.4 Liter Hemi V-8 supercharged engine, the report said. His quick acceleration caused the right rear tire to break traction and he lost control.

The car crossed the oncoming lane of the two-lane highway and went down the steep embankment, knocking down a vinyl fence before hitting the tree head-on so hard it was uprooted and rolled down the hill, the report said.

The back of the car flew upward and the roof also hit the tree, severely smashing it down, investigators said. The sides were also smashed, and some doors couldn't be opened.

NEW YORK (AP)—Sue Monk Kidd's next novel is very much a work of fiction.

"The Book of Longings" is the fourth novel by the author known for such best-sellers as "The Secret Life of Bees" and "The Invention of Wings," a 19th-century slavery narrative that Oprah Winfrey chose for her book club. "The Book of Longings" is told from the point of view of a restless young woman from the Galilee region named Ana, who meets Jesus when he's 18 and eventually marries him. According to Viking, the marriage "unfolds with love and conflict, humor and pathos." Kidd draws upon historical research, but Ana is entirely invented.

"I believe the aim of the novelist is not only to hold up a mirror to the world as it is, but to imagine what's possible," Kidd told The Associated Press in a recent mail. "From the moment the idea of writing this novel struck me, I felt the importance of at least imagining a married Jesus. Doing so, provokes a fascinating question: How would the Western world be different if Jesus had married and his wife had been included in his story? There are only speculative answers, but I think Christianity and the Western world would have had a somewhat different religious and cultural inheritance, especially when it came to the egalitarian roles of women, to celibacy, and so forth. Why imagine a woman married to Jesus? Because stories of possibility challenge us to create new realities."

Viking announced Friday that Kidd's new book, originally titled "Ana, the Wife of Jesus," comes out April 28,

2020. Kidd has written about religion and spirituality in her nonfiction works, including "Firstlight" and "The Dance of the Dissident Daughter."

The canonical gospels make no reference to Jesus ever marrying, but scholars, conspiracists and fiction writers have long speculated whether he wed Mary Magdalene, most famously (and controversially) in Dan Brown's "The Da Vinci Code." Kidd said that her novel is, in part, a response to the marginalized status of women in the Bible.

"The invisibility and silencing of women were real things. In the scriptures, women rarely have speaking parts and they aren't mentioned nearly as often as men," she told the AP. "It could even be argued that in the first-century Jewish world of Galilee, marriage was so normative, it more or less went without saying. Typically undertaken at 20 (though sometimes up to age 30), marriage was a man's civic, family and sacred duty. There are compelling reasons to support both sides of the argument. The matter is likely irresolvable."

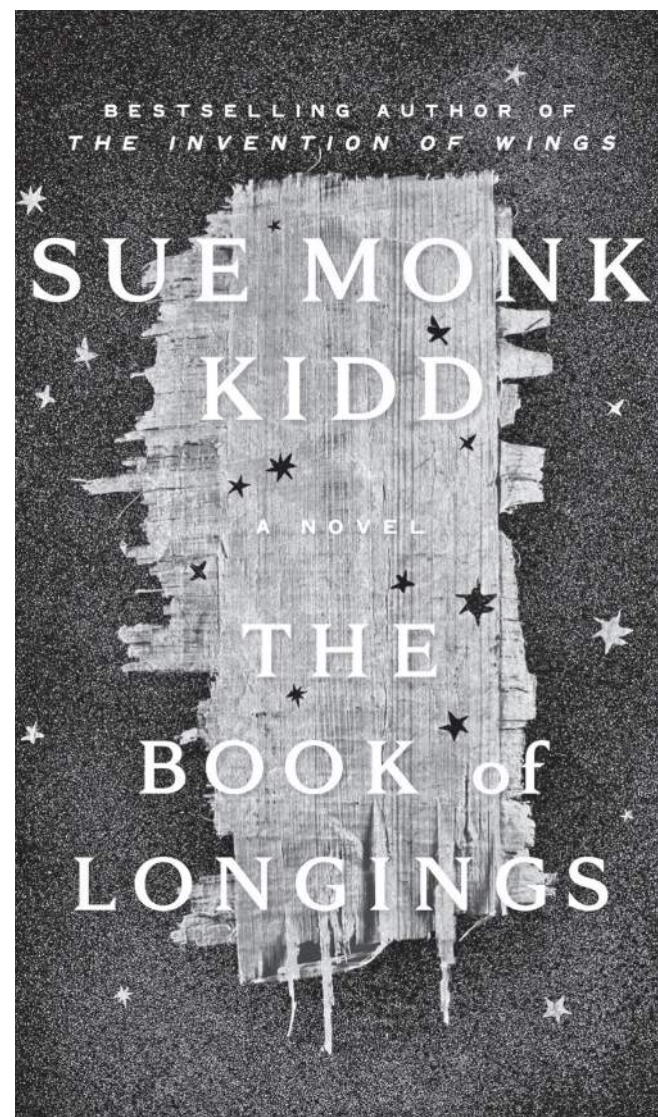
"All I know," she added, "is that Ana wandered into my imagination and I couldn't ignore her."

Jane Fonda arrested protesting climate change in Washington

NEW YORK (AP)—Jane Fonda was arrested at the U.S. Capitol on Friday while peacefully protesting climate change.

The actress and activist was handcuffed on the east side steps and escorted into a police vehicle. Video of the arrest circulated online.

Fonda was one of 16 people arrested for unlawfully protest-



AP
This undated photo provided by Viking shows the cover of "The Book of Longings," by Sue Monk Kidd. Viking announced Friday, Oct. 11, 2019, that Kidd's new book comes out April 28, 2020.

ing and was charged with "crowding, obstructing or incommoding." She was released hours later.

On Thursday, the actress vowed to join Friday protests at the Capitol "inspired and emboldened by the incredible movement our youth have created."



Fonda

Ira Arlook, of the group Fire Drill Fridays, confirmed that Fonda was arrested at the inaugural demonstration Friday.

Before her arrest, Fonda in a speech called climate change "a collective crisis that demands collective action now."

Freshman seeks confidence when interviewing for a job

DEAR ABBY: I am a college freshman. I have decided I want to get a job so I can support myself and pay half the rent in the apartment my mom resides in. I have always been shy because I don't really know how to talk to people. Every interview I go on, I never get a callback. How do I get connected at school and manage a job? How can I have more confidence in myself for job interviews?

CLUELESS IN ILLINOIS

DEAR CLUELESS: People convey confidence by looking others in the eye when they talk to them and being conscious of good posture. When you apply for your next job—one you think you would be suited for—write down and memorize five reasons why the company would be lucky to have you. Recite them for the interviewer, and this, too, will convey confidence.

If you are not hired, rather than blame yourself, accept that there's a lot of competition out there, so don't beat yourself up if you don't receive an offer from every company you apply to. Ask interviewers who don't hire you what you can do better. Practice makes perfect. Each interview should get easier.

As to getting connected at school, join special interest groups that you have time for between your study and work schedule. Your time may be limited, but these groups offer an opportunity to meet new people with whom you have a common interest.

DEAR ABBY: One of the things I taught my children was to write thank-you notes or, at least, verbally thank someone for a gift or nicety. My 30-year-old son calls to thank us when we send him gifts and when we provide meals or lodging when they stay with us. His soon-to-be fiancée, however, has never once uttered or written the word "thank you" for anything we have done for her. Perhaps she was raised by wolves.

I like the girl, but this really irritates me. How can I get the idea across to her without causing a rift? Should I talk to my son about it? I'm about at the point where I will no longer send her any gifts. Maybe I should send her your booklet about how to write letters.

UNTHANKED IN FLORIDA

DEAR UNTHANKED: Your son's fiancée-to-be may not have been raised by wolves as much as brought up by parents who were possibly ignorant of the social graces. Because this bothers you to the degree it does, discuss your feelings with your son rather than confront her. And please, rethink your idea of sending her my Letters booklet because, under the circumstances, it would be mean-spirited and likely not well-received.

DEAR ABBY: My sister-in-law is obsessed with dieting and working out. She and her husband often talk about other people's looks (whether they need to lose weight or not).

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



I had a baby four months ago and have about 15 pounds to lose before I'll be back to my pre-pregnancy weight. She has told me several times now that I need to work out. I don't know what to say because her comments are hurtful. We are fairly close, so I'd prefer to confront her myself instead of asking my husband to do it. What should I say the next time she says this?

BABY WEIGHT IN THE SOUTH

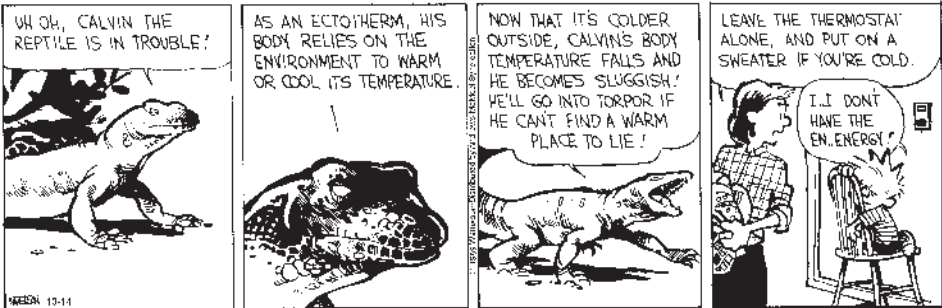
DEAR BABY WEIGHT: Tell her (sweetly) that you know she means well, but that you would prefer not to discuss it at this time. It's the truth.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

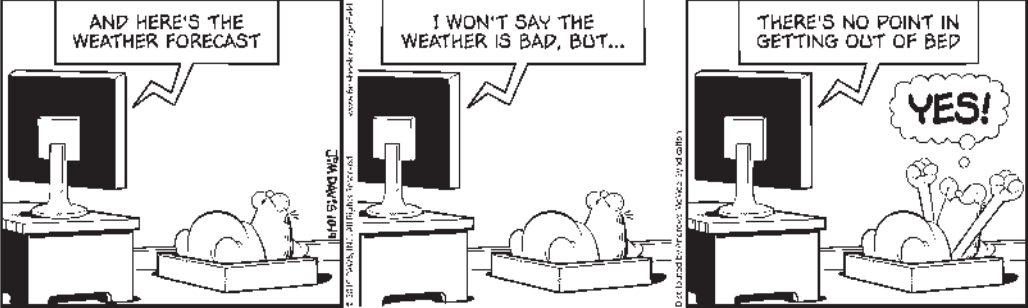
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



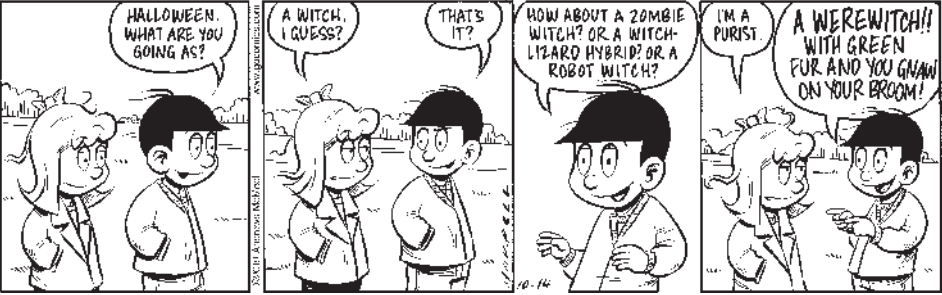
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Sheepish remarks

5 Garden of the Food Network

8 Big bash

12 Work force

14 Eastern bigwig

15 Lavatory

16 Onion relative

17 Poetic dusk

18 He flew too close to the sun

20 Paris subway

23 Body sci.

24 Literary Jane

25 Quaint cafe

28 "My word!"

29 Spin

30 Female hare

32 Place for play

34 Prosperous period

35 Bean curd

36 German sausage

37 California peak

40 "Kapow!"

41 Artist

42 Online talk

47 Lamb alias

48 Korea setting

49 Gradually withdraw

50 Insult, slangily

51 Nuisance

3 Reply (Abbr.)

4 Orb

5 Victor's cry

6 "The Matrix"

7 How

8 Italian ice

9 From the U.S.

10 Stead

11 Clumsy fleet

13 Sandwich cookie

19 Poet

20 Sandburg

22 Genealogy chart

23 Vowel group

25 Deceitful

26 Scent

27 Cattle calls?

29 Jog

31 911 responder

33 MD's diagnostic order

34 Unjust verdict

36 Bulb measure

37 Diving duck

38 Robust

39 La Scala solo

40 Striped fish

43 "Bali —"

44 Sugar suffix

45 Sue Grafton's "— for Outlaw"

46 Yoga pad

21 Watchful one

22 Genealogy chart

23 Vowel group

25 Deceitful

26 Scent

27 Cattle calls?

29 Jog

31 911 responder

33 MD's diagnostic order

34 Unjust verdict

36 Bulb measure

37 Diving duck

38 Robust

39 La Scala solo

40 Striped fish

43 "Bali —"

44 Sugar suffix

45 Sue Grafton's "— for Outlaw"

46 Yoga pad

ZIP SWAM CAPS
A E K E N O A S I A
P E R C O L A S R I N C
U R A I G F S S O
A N V I L T R U E
V G I D B E A T N I K S
O R A L A N D S M O I
W A N N A J E S A P O P
O G E D A E R O
H C A X W A X P A P E R
M A N I J A I I F R O
S A T S H E D R U B

Last Friday's Answer 10/14

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14
15 16
17 18 19
20 21 22 23
24 25 26 27
28 29 30 31
32 33 34 35 36
37 38 39 40
41 42 43 44 45 46
47 48
49 50 51

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Usher, 41; Natalie Maines, 45; Lori Petty, 56; Ralph Lauren, 80.

Happy Birthday: A positive attitude will help you alter the way people treat you. Your priority should be to surround yourself with people who are upbeat and willing to make the most of each day. Partnerships look promising, although they will also change constantly. Adjusting to an on-going flow of unique and innovative trends will lead to new possibilities. Your numbers are 7, 12, 20, 28, 33, 36, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): High energy can be both good and bad. Concentrate on what you want to achieve, not dealing with no-win situations. Arguing will not help you get ahead or gain respect. Say little, do a lot; doors will open. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your emotions will fluctuate, and if not handled with care, can lead to trouble. Look at all sides of a situation before you make a decision. If you are disciplined and resourceful, you'll accomplish a lot. Romance will improve a meaningful relationship. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Look for opportunities and head in that direction. Refuse to let anyone lead you astray or take advantage of you. Partnerships will be difficult if you cannot maintain equality. Do for others only what they will do for you. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Anger won't help you advance. Use your imagination, and you'll come up with an alternative way to get what you want. Change may not be your thing, but if you use your intuitive intelligence, you'll get good results. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Stay put if you aren't sure what's best for you. It doesn't matter what others do or how persuasive friends or peers can be; if something doesn't sit right with you, don't join in. Don't feel you have to share your thoughts. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Connect with people who have always given you sage advice in the past. An open mind will lead to optimal changes that will help you move forward personally. Travel down a path that is void of divisiveness. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Be open to suggestions. Someone you least expect will offer a solution that will bring about positive change to a partnership that has been on shaky ground. Update your look or your attitude, and it will make people view you differently. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): It's decision time. Stop pondering over possibilities, and start implementing your ideas. Speak up about the way you feel and what you want to do, and you'll persuade others to bend to your needs and wishes. Romance is in the stars. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Consider the whole scope of a situation before you make decisions that will affect how you live or the lives of others. A change may be in the cards, but how you go about it will determine the outcome. Pay attention to detail. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Do your research, take care of the paperwork and clear the way. Having an open channel to change will show how thorough and able you are to lead the way. Express your thoughts, nurture meaningful partnerships and embrace new beginnings. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be careful what you say, who you listen to and what you decide to do. Put everything in place, and concentrate on budgeting, legal matters and who you can call upon for help. Make adjustments based on necessity, not emotions. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Looking back will help you move forward. Take care of matters that affect your physical and emotional well-being. Update your plans, refresh your look and prepare to make changes that will encourage you to follow your heart. ****

Birthday Baby: You are perceptive, convincing and changeable. You are possessive and unique.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

Difficulty Level ★ 10/14

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WONDERWORD By DAVID CUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

QZONE Solution: 7 letters

A E R E T S I G E R P N C K L
C N G C O L O R L S O U L I T
O I A L B U M I E S A K E P
M R N M U T F T F T T E K W O
M E S S A G E O O M L R C S R
E T E E T T N M R E A A I C T
N U F T D A I A P M I C S R A
T P E N I L N O L B C O U E L
C M (E) (F) (A) (S) E T N E O O M E S
O O D O R L B R M R S U D N T
N C N M Y R P E R S O N A L A
N H E T A N D S W H E T R A B
E I S N E I E U D I G I T A L
C N D K A N L P R P G A M E E
T A E R A W T F O S D C H A T

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Last Friday's Answer: Picture

To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION
OF LUYI, LLC.**

Notice is hereby given that
LUYI, LLC is dissolving
the corporation effective
October 14, 2019.

All persons having claims
against the corporation are
requested to present them in
writing and mail to: P.O. BOX
505956 SAIPAN MP 96950

This will serve as notice
to all parties concerned
of the legal dissolution
of the said corporation.

PUBLIC NOTICE

**Solicitation for Bids
for Repair Work on Mañagaha Island**

Tasi Tours and Transportation, Inc. ("Tasi") operates a tourism concession on Mañagaha Island under a contract with the CNMI Department of Public Lands. Under this contract, Tasi maintains the pavilions and other improvements on Mañagaha. Super-typhoons Soudelor and Yutu damaged the roofs of six of the pavilions, a BBQ area, and the generator house. Tasi is soliciting formal bids for the repair of these roofs. The award is contingent upon approval by the Department of Public Lands.

Bid packages are available now at Tasi's office, Beach Road, Saipan. Boat transportation to Mañagaha to view the pavilions, BBQ area, and generator house may be arranged by calling David L. Igitol at Tasi at (670) 235-9373. Such arrangements must be made by no later than October 21, 2019.

Bids will be due in writing no later than October 25, 2019 at 4:00 PM addressed to Masato Tezuka via email at m_tezuka@tasi-saipan.com or via hand delivery in a sealed envelope at Tasi's office on Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan.

WHATZIT Solution: Hold tight

RATES AND POLICIES

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Saipan Tribune also offers a complete 5-day run of liner ads, for as low as \$15 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.



**SECOND
MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION**
P.O. BOX 501457 Saipan, MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position: **Administrative Officer III** Deadline: **October 18, 2019**

Nature of Position

- Attends all meetings of the Commission
- Prepares the agenda of the meetings, by working with the Chairman
- Prepares and maintains all minutes of the Commission's meetings
- Prepares travel documents for the Commissioners
- Coordinates meetings/hearing sites for the Commission
- Organize historical documents for the archives
- Create website and other social media
- Performs other related duties as assigned

Qualification:

- Must have a working knowledge of the CNMI political and cultural history
- Bachelor of Arts or equivalent
- 6 years' experience in administrative skills
- Must reside in the CNMI

Salary: \$35,000-\$40,000 (Negotiable)

Position: **Part-time Legal Counsel** Deadline: **October 18, 2019**

Nature of Position


- Examine present political status with US and former Trust Territory Relationship
- Communicate with the Commission, the courts, and other legal counsel.
- Conduct research and analysis of the Commission's legal issues.
- Interpret laws, rulings, and regulations and advise the Commission on how to proceed.
- Performs other related duties as assigned

Qualification:

- Must have a working knowledge of the CNMI political and cultural history
- Must be knowledgeable of the Covenant
- Must be able to practice law in CNMI
- Must reside in the CNMI

Salary: (Negotiable)

For more information and application, please contact Ms Zania Fleming at flemingzania@gmail.com



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
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E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@polcom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 06-2019

Opening date: **September 30, 2019** Closing date: **October 18, 2019**

Positions: (1) Electrician (Saipan)
(1) ARFF General Maintenance-I (Saipan)
(1) Vessel Traffic Controller-I (Port of Saipan)
(1) Secretary/Tariff Technician-I (Rota)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport**. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, October 18, 2019**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cpa.gov.mp or hrrspecialist@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670)237-6500.

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Scherzer no-hit try into 7th, Nats take 2-0 lead



ST. LOUIS
(AP)—Max

Scherzer was strength and fire. Aníbal Sánchez was artistry and deception.

Two different styles, two absolute gems for the Washington Nationals.

Scherzer followed Sánchez's near no-hitter with a try of his own, and the stingy Nationals beat the St. Louis Cardinals 3-1 on Saturday for a 2-0 lead in the NL Championship Series.

"We really want to win here," the hard-charging Scherzer said. "So that's what's going to happen, we're going to compete and win."

Scherzer didn't allow a hit until Paul Goldschmidt led off the seventh inning with a single that left fielder Juan Soto played conservatively with a 1-0 lead. A day earlier, Sánchez held the Cardinals hitless until José Martínez had a pinch single with two down in the eighth.

Sánchez and Scherzer also began the 2013 ALCS with consecutive no-hit bids of at least five innings for Detroit against Boston. They are the only pitchers to accomplish the feat in postseason history.

"The way he can change speeds and execute pitches, it's a treat to really watch and get to pitch with him," Scherzer said. "For me, I'm just in the moment. I'm not trying to do anything great, I'm just trying to stick within my game."

Scherzer, a St. Louis native who played college ball for the University of Missouri, struck out 11 and walked two in seven innings.

It doesn't get any easier for



St. Louis Cardinals' Kolten Wong steals second with Washington Nationals' Howie Kendrick covering during the first inning of Game 2 of the National League Championship Series Saturday, Oct. 12, 2019, in St. Louis.

St. Louis, either. Ace Stephen Strasburg gets the ball for the wild-card Nationals when the best-of-seven series moves to Washington for Game 3 on Monday night. Jack Flaherty pitches for the Cards.

"They have a pretty strong advantage right now," Cardinals right-hander Adam Wainwright said.

"I've got a lot of confidence in our hitters. I think our hitters are going to do something special in Washington."

St. Louis got another solid performance from Wainwright, who struck out 11 in 7 1/3 innings.

But after getting only one hit in the opener, the Cardinals' in-

consistent lineup managed just three hits against Scherzer and the Washington bullpen.

"We trust in each other. We've been in this position before," Cardinals catcher Yadier Molina said. "We just have to figure out how to get better."

The NL Central champions got their first run of the series when center fielder Michael A. Taylor misplayed Martínez's pinch-hit liner into an RBI double with two outs in the eighth. But Dexter Fowler flied out on Sean Doolittle's next pitch on a tough day to see the ball with the shadows from the mid-afternoon start.

Patrick Corbin got the first

out of the ninth before Daniel Hudson earned his third save of the playoffs. The right-hander was reinstated from the postseason paternity list before the game after he missed the series opener to be with his wife, Sara, for the birth of their third child, a girl named Millie.

Corbin is expected to start Game 4 for the Nationals on Tuesday night.

Scherzer, who has pitched two no-hitters in the regular season, has a record five career postseason no-hit bids of at least five innings, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. The three-time Cy Young Award winner came closest

to finishing in Game 3 of the 2017 NL Division Series, getting one out in the seventh inning before allowing a hit.

There have only been two postseason no-hitters. Don Larsen threw a perfect game for the New York Yankees against Brooklyn in the 1956 World Series, and Roy Halladay pitched a no-hitter for the Philadelphia Phillies in the 2010 NL Division Series.

"It's a good ballclub, but we've got great pitchers," Taylor said. "They went out and executed pitch after pitch."

The Cardinals got one baserunner into scoring position while Scherzer was on the mound. Kolten Wong walked

with one out in the first and stole second, but Goldschmidt and Marcell Ozuna struck out.

After Goldschmidt's hit, Ozuna struck out again and Molina bounced into an inning-ending double play on Scherzer's final pitch of the afternoon.

Washington went ahead to stay when Taylor homered on Wainwright's first pitch of the third. The Nationals added two more on Adam Eaton's double down the first-base line with one out in the eighth.

"This is really, it's not just one guy carrying this team or two guys," Scherzer said. "It's really just a collective of everybody out there doing their job."

HOUSTON (AP)—The youngest Baby Bomber is all grown up. Any surprise Gleyber Torres is doing so well in October?

"I mean, not really," he said.

The 22-year-old Torres kept up his postseason surge with a homer and five RBIs, Masahiro Tanaka polished his playoff resume and the New York Yankees blanked the Houston Astros 7-0 Saturday night in the AL Championship Series opener.

Torres did his part in this matchup of 100-win behemoths with a go-ahead double, a solo homer, a two-run single and an RBI grounder. Moved up to third in the batting order after mashing in a sweep of Minnesota, the two-time All-Star became the youngest AL player to drive in five runs during a postseason game.

"Prepare really well to be here and help my team. So now I got opportunity," he said.

Torres, Tanaka lead Yankees in ALCS opener

Brett Gardner, one of New York's older players at 35, raved about the young second baseman.

"It's kind of scary for opposing pitchers, but exciting if you're a Yankees fan," he said. "He's just so talented and has a knack for putting the bat on the baseball. No moment is too big for him."

With so much attention focused on the Astros aces, Tanaka showed he more than belonged on this stage, too. He threw one-hit ball for six innings to outpitch Zack Greinke, improving to 5-2 with a 1.32 ERA in the postseason.

How tech determines if you land a job or get a loan

Sponsored by U.S. Cellular Giancarlo Stanton and Gio Urshela also homered and right fielder Aaron Judge turned in the key play, catching a line drive and doubling Alex Bregman off first base

when it was still 1-0.

"Loved our look today," manager Aaron Boone said.

The Yankees will try to build on their early momentum when James Paxton starts against 21-game winner Justin Verlander in Game 2 on Sunday night.

Houston hardly resembled a club that led the majors with a franchise-record 107 victories. Jose Altuve, Bregman and their teammates were held to three singles.

"I don't think we've really done anything offensively this postseason," Bregman said. "We need to string together some at-bats."

The Astros had homered in 30 straight games — every game since Aug. 31 — and their streak was the second-longest in major league history behind a 31-game string by the Yankees this year.

Greinke, acquired at the

trade deadline for these kind of moments, produced another lackluster playoff start.

"The Yankees, they can come at you in a lot of different ways," Astros manager AJ Hinch said.

Tanaka, who won Game 1 of the ALDS, struck out four and walked one. He faced the minimum through six innings thanks to a pair of double plays. The 68 pitches he used to get through six innings are the fewest a pitcher needed to get through six in a postseason game since Atlanta's Greg Maddux threw 67 in six innings in the NLDS against the Giants in 2002. Three relievers finished up the shutout.

"Obviously the number's there and I guess I'm flattered. But the happiest thing for me is us being able to get the W," Tanaka said through a translator.

Torres picked up right where he left off in the divi-

sion series where he hit .417 to lead the team—he batted sixth in those games, but was moved higher as Boone tinkered with his lineup to break up the team's lefty hitters.

Torres put the Yankees out front with an RBI double in the fourth.

There was one out in the sixth when he hit a fastball from Greinke into the seats in left field. Greinke knew it was gone off the bat, and pounded his fist into his glove as soon as Torres left the batter's box.

Torres singled in the seventh to make it 5-0. He has an RBI in all four of New York's playoff games this year.

"He likes playing these situations and he's confident in his ability to produce. And that leads to a dangerous player," Boone said.

Stanton homered with two outs in the sixth.

The Astros and Yankees

were meeting in the playoffs for the third time in five years and facing off in the ALCS for the second time in three seasons. New York's road win on Saturday night comes after the home team won every game of the 2017 ALCS that Houston took 4-3.

The Astros got Greinke, the 2009 AL Cy Young Award winner, from Arizona in July, hoping to bolster a rotation starring Verlander and Gerrit Cole. Greinke went 8-1 with a 3.02 ERA in 10 regular-season starts after the trade, but has struggled in the postseason and lost both starts.

He was put off when asked if he felt he had to pitch perfectly with no run support.

"I don't like that question," he said.

Greinke took the loss in Game 3 of the ALDS against Tampa Bay in allowing five hits, four of which were homers and six runs in 3 2/3 innings.

Davis hurt, Nets sweep Lakers in China



SHENZHEN (AP)—Anthony Davis and the Los Angeles Lakers did not get out of China unscathed.

Davis will have tests Sunday to determine the full severity of a right thumb injury, which the Lakers have initially diagnosed as a sprain. He got hurt in the first quarter of the Lakers' 91-77 loss to the Brooklyn Nets on Saturday in the finale of the NBA China Games series.

Caris LeVert scored 22 points on 8 for 11 shooting for Brooklyn, which swept the two matchups between the clubs in China. Taurean Prince scored 14 for Brooklyn, and DeAndre Jordan grabbed 11 rebounds in 19 minutes.

Avery Bradley led the Lakers with 14 points. Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 11.

The encouraging sign for the Lakers is that Davis—who has a history of being plagued by injuries throughout his career—continued to play for a few minutes after getting hurt while attempting to block a shot. He and LeBron James both shot 2 for 7 and scored six points apiece for the Lakers; James, like Davis, played the entire first quarter and then did not return to the game.

Brooklyn was without point guard Kyrie Irving, who played only 66 seconds on the two-game trip halfway around the world. Irving was out with what the Nets called a facial contusion; he played briefly Thursday with a mask to protect a facial fracture, then left after his face collided with Rajon Rondo's upper arm.

The Nets held the Lakers to 34% shooting, 16% from 3-point range. Alex Caruso shot only 1 for 13 for the Lakers.

The game in China was one of only two on the NBA's preseason schedule Saturday. Later, Phoenix plays Portland.

It was the third preseason game for each team, and each team used a third different starting lineup.

For the Lakers, only James and Davis have started every preseason contest this season. LeVert is the only Nets player in the starting lineup for all three of their exhibitions.

Kostas Antetokounmpo, the brother of reigning NBA MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo of the Milwaukee Bucks, scored nine points for the Lakers.

Meanwhile, the Los Angeles Lakers and Brooklyn Nets are heading home from China, their roles as unwitting participants in a geopolitical drama that neither team had any role in starting or escalating now over.

Series overshadowed by fallout

The Nets and Lakers' two-



The Los Angeles Lakers' Anthony Davis, left, drives against the Brooklyn Nets' Jarrett Allen during the NBA China Games 2019 in Shenzhen in south China's Guangdong province on Saturday, Oct. 12, 2019.

I don't allow myself to forget is the Chinese people love basketball. They absolutely love basketball."

This rift involving China and the NBA began Oct. 4, when Morey tweeted an image that said "Fight For Freedom. Stand With Hong Kong." Chinese officials - and, apparently, even former Rockets star Yao Ming - took offense to Morey using Twitter to express support for anti-government protesters.

Yao is now the president of the Chinese Basketball Association, which suspended its ties to the Rockets over the tweet. Events in China promoting the Lakers-Nets series were canceled, NBA media partner Tencent said it was evaluating its plans to cover the league, and China state broadcaster CCTV did not air either pre-season game - despite the fact they would have likely drawn massive viewership in the basketball-crazed country.

Other Chinese corporations suspended their relationships, at least for now, with the NBA as well as part of the fallout. The NBA is not the first major corporation to deal with criticism from China over political differences. Mercedes-Benz, Delta Air Lines, hotel operator Marriott, fashion brand Zara and others also have found themselves in conflicts with China in recent years.

In most cases, those firms snuffed out the issues with an apology. The NBA has not gone that route, instead supporting Morey's right to expression.

Chinese micro-blogging site Weibo suggesting fans boycott the game, though that apparently did not materialize. Many fans arrived in Shenzhen wearing jerseys, though some taped over the NBA logo in a show of protest.

Wang Yiwei, 24, wore a Cleveland Cavaliers jersey with James' name and number on the back. He applied a Chinese flag sticker over the NBA logo.

"I don't have any opportunity to watch him playing in the United States," Wang said. "So it would be my once-in-a-lifetime chance to watch his match tonight. The NBA con-

troversy came out right before the match and I have mixed feelings right now."

The NBA and its players have been criticized by both Republican and Democratic lawmakers in the U.S. for playing the games and for not saying more about China's human rights record. Journalist and entrepreneur Bill Bishop, who writes and publishes a newsletter about China called Sinocism, appeared to defend the decision to keep the teams quiet by asking on Twitter "what can they or their players say that won't make things worse on either side?"

That was a sentiment some shared in the U.S. as well. Golden State's Draymond Green said it wouldn't be wise for him to comment on specifics of the China-Hong Kong matter because he did not understand every nuance, a stance that Warriors coach Steve Kerr also expressed in recent days.

"I think it would be naive of me to say, 'Oh, I think it'll all be fine and blow over,'" Roberts said. "I wish I could say that with some confidence, but I can't. It certainly stunned me that the government would take the position that it took. Having said that, the one thing

Federer, Djokovic ousted at Shanghai Masters

SHANGHAI—Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic went from perfectly unbeatable to unbelievably beaten in the quarterfinals of the Shanghai Masters.

Federer and Djokovic had been a combined 13-0 in Shanghai with a spot in the semifinals on the line, but both lost Friday.

Federer saved five match points in the second set and received a point penalty in the third in the 6-3, 6-7 (7), 6-3 loss to fifth-seeded Alexander Zverev. Djokovic, the defending champion, lost to sixth-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas 3-6, 7-5, 6-3.

"He deserved the victory," Djokovic said of the 21-year-

old Tsitsipas. "He was the better player in the second and third sets. I started well in the first set, but I wasn't sharp enough."

Djokovic had been 8-0 in quarterfinal matches at the Shanghai Masters, and won four titles. Federer had been 5-0.

Federer received a code violation for hitting a ball into the stands, and then received a point penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct after flicking a ball into the air when trailing 3-0 in the third set.

When asked about the point penalty after the match, Federer didn't want to go into any detail.

"So you could write on Twit-

ter, you mean?" Federer answered. "No, it would be nice to write something nice once also about the game. 'Next question.'"

The 22-year-old Zverev now leads Federer 4-3 in career meetings.

"I mean, they're knocking on the door big time, the young guys," Federer said. "It's exciting. They're great. It's really open now, I think, for the finish of this tournament."

Until Friday's match, Djokovic had won 24 straight sets in Asia, a run that included last year's Shanghai Masters and the title in Tokyo last week.

Tsitsipas has now beaten Djokovic twice in three

matches. The Greek player defeated Djokovic in their first meeting at the 2018 Toronto tournament and Djokovic won their match in Madrid this season.

"It's the best comeback that I have ever had probably," Tsitsipas said of Friday's victory.

Tsitsipas also earned a place at the year-end ATP Finals for the first time on Friday. But that was guaranteed when third-seeded Daniil Medvedev beat Fabio Fognini 6-3, 7-6 (4) in another quarterfinal match.

Medvedev, who will face Tsitsipas in Saturday's semifinals, is one match away from reaching a sixth consecutive tournament final.

Luck-less Colts use depth to build momentum



INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Outsiders thought Andrew Luck's surprise retirement would doom the Indianapolis Colts' playoff hopes.

Turns out, it only made them more determined.

Five games into the season, Indy heads into the bye week with three wins, tied for the AFC South lead with Houston and full of momentum after Jacoby Brissett pulled off a feat Luck could not in what turned out to be his final NFL game - winning at Kansas City.

"It's a great win," said Brissett, Luck's successor. "Playing against a team like this, on their home field, on 'Sunday Night Football', who knows where it's going to take us. But we're pointed in the right direction."

There's little doubt the Colts (3-2) have been one of the early season's biggest surprises despite the bumpy ride.

Luck's impromptu postgame announcement on Aug. 24 sent shockwaves through the league and down the Colts' sideline, where some players said they first learned of the decision from screaming fans.

Two days before the season opener, longtime offensive line coach Howard Mudd also called it quits.

Then retirement rumors started swirling around 46-year-old Adam Vinatieri after the league's career scoring leader missed five of his first eight kicks, including two field-goal attempts and an extra point in a season-opening overtime loss to the Los Angeles Chargers.

Week 2 was marred by the loss of All-Pro linebacker Darius Leonard because of a concussion, which kept him out of the next three games. And the defense some thought could crack the league's top 10 started developing its own cracks.

But the Colts refused to give in to the distractions or the detractors and instead relied on the deep roster assembled by general manager Chris Ballard to overcome obstacles and prove the doubters wrong.



Indianapolis Colts safety Khari Willis (37) breaks up a pass intended for Oakland Raiders wide receiver Tyrell Williams (16) during the first half of an NFL football game in Indianapolis, Sunday, Sept. 29, 2019.

backed up in 2016.

Indy has continued winning despite a depleted receiving group and secondary and the absence of Leonard, their top defensive player. And they've done it, largely by relying on an offensive line that went from worst to first in one season and is built to excel at old-school football.

So far, Ballard's measured investments have paid big dividends.

The Colts are No. 4 in the league in rushing (142.0 yards) and held Kansas City to a season-low 10 points largely by keeping Patrick Mahomes, the reigning MVP, off the field for all but 7+ minutes in the second half Sunday night.

It's no surprise to Reich, who was committed to being a run-first team long before Luck's departure.

"I believe that Chris and his staff have done a great job of getting the kind of players in here that we can be a run-dominant team," Reich said. "I think we're starting to see that, but it's never easy."

And now the Colts find themselves in position to use the next five games to position themselves for a playoff push some considered inconceivable less than two months ago.

Following the bye, Indy hosts the Texans and Broncos before visiting Pittsburgh. The Colts then return home for matchups with Miami and Jacksonville - and what they hope will be the kind of finish Ballard anticipated even on the night of Luck's farewell speech.

"That's what makes this game great—teams win," Ballard said in August. "The story is just starting, man. It's not the end of the story yet. Everybody's going to write the end of the story, but I'm telling you the story's not over yet."

"We've got guys who can step up at any moment and make a play to put us in position to win the game," said Justin Houston, the 2014 league sacks champion who signed with the Colts as a free agent in March and helped seal Sunday's win with a fourth-down tackle late in the game. "I think Chris Ballard did a great job of putting this team together, and we've got to continue to build on what we have. We have

a great team."

It's all by design.

Almost from the moment Ballard arrived in Indy in 2017, he's talked about the necessity of building around a philosophy rather than a couple of star players.

The difference is easily recognizable to Colts fans.

After Edgerrin James suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament in October 2001, the Colts won only two

more games and missed the playoffs. When Peyton Manning sat out the 2011 season with a neck injury, the Colts lost their first 13 games and finished 2-14. And when Luck missed the 2017 season while recovering from surgery on his throwing shoulder, Brissett went 4-11 as the starter.

This year, Brissett has thrown as many touchdown passes as Tom Brady (10) and only one more interception (three) than Brady, whom he

WASHINGTON (AP)—Weston McKennie got the U.S. off to a record-setting start against Cuba in the Americans' CONCACAF Nations League debut.

McKennie scored 32 seconds into the game and had the fastest hat trick from the kick-off in U.S. history, helping the Americans overwhelm Cuba 7-0 on Friday night.

"If I could have written the game up, it would have been exactly like this. Score early, score many goals early, and then cruise," U.S. coach Gregg Berhalter said. "That was important, so I think we saved ourselves. I think we'll be fit, ready to go against Canada."

Jordan Morris scored and tied a U.S. record with three assists and Josh Sargent also had a goal as the 21st-ranked Americans burst to a 6-0 half-time lead against No. 179

McKennie's record hat trick lifts US over Cuba

Cuba and set their modern record for goals in a half.

Christian Pulisic converted a penalty kick in the 62nd minute, nonchalantly putting his shot in the center of the net for his 14th international goal, then was expressionless. The U.S. women's team was criticized by some for celebrating late goals during a 13-0 rout of Thailand at the World Cup in June.

The Nations League, a new tournament for teams from North and Central America and the Caribbean, has relatively low stakes but provides additional competitive matches, though former U.S. coach Jürgen Klinsmann called it "a waste of time" for regional powers to meet weaker nations. The next match, against 75th-ranked Canada at Toronto on Tuesday, is important for

the hosts as they try to climb in the FIFA rankings and earn a spot in the hexagonal that will determine the three direct berths of the North and Central American and Caribbean region for the 2022 World Cup.

The U.S., which stopped three-game winless streak, finished one goal shy of its record for goals and victory margin. The Americans are 11-1-1 against Cuba, winning 11 straight matchups for their longest victory streak against an opponent. "Obviously we understood that this game was going to be difficult for us," Cuba coach Pablo Sanchez said through a translator.

Friday's game came two years and one day after the U.S. lost at Trinidad and To-

bago, missing out on qualifying for last year's World Cup in Russia.

This is a new team, with a younger core of players and a new offensive system that they are still learning, and the Americans found plenty of motivation.

"It was another opportunity to keep rehearsing some of the movements we've been working on in training all week. You get a live opponent in a meaningful game and you have to go execute," Berhalter said. "I think we maintained that focus and intensity for the entire first half, and you see the outcome, scoring six goals. So overall I think it was a worthwhile game, for us to continue to grow."

McKennie banged home a cross from Morris from 8 yards

for the second-fastest U.S. goal after Clint Dempsey's score at 30 seconds against Ghana at the 2014 World Cup.

Morris found McKennie again in the fifth minute, again beating left back Manuel Cruz, who was replaced at the start of the second half.

McKennie returned the favor in the ninth as Morris converted and McKennie got his third in the 13th minute on a cross from Reggie Cannon, his sixth goal in 16 international appearances.

McKennie said he's been building chemistry with Morris off the field.

"Probably a Fortnite connection," McKennie said. "We play Fortnite on our downtime a lot. I think we understand each other very well."

The previous fastest hat trick

for the U.S. from the opening whistle was by Brian McBride's in the 2002 CONCACAF Gold Cup against El Salvador, when he scored in the ninth, 11th and 21st minutes.

"One of my strengths is always being able to arrive in the box late, or just find a way to get in the box," McKennie said. "Luckily today, the ball just found my foot, the right spots, the right time."

Cuba's Dario Ramos deflected in an own goal in the 37th and Sargent connected from 15 yards off a pass from Morris three minutes later.

"Even though we were up so many goals in the first half, I thought we could have come out a little better in the second half and get even more goals. Not to be disrespectful or anything," Sargent said. "It's just our mentality. We want to play the same way and be ruthless."



Top Development, Best Deal/RNV top foes

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER



Best Deal/RNV and Top Development, Inc. won their respective matches in the 2018 JP World Corp. Customer Appreciation Basketball League last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

In the first game, TDI outclassed Docomo Pacific, 98-85, while Best Deal/RNV also earned a double-digit winning margin over Joeten 2 in the second tiff, 74-58. Three matches were scheduled last Saturday, but Joeten 1 got the outright victory after a no-show from MG&R Contractor.

For the last match of the night, Best Deal/RNV played

better in the second half, as more players came in to team up in their 16-point win against Joeten 2.

Actually, both squads started the game with a depleted crew and the match was pretty even after the first half with Joeten 2 taking a 20-15 lead after the opening frame before Best Deal/RNV grabbed the upper hand at the break, 36-35.

Ariel Baul, who missed the first quarter action, came to play in the second period and worked with Ronald Rueda and Ivan Agustin in putting Best Deal/RNV on top after 20 minutes of action.

Baul was not done yet and delivered 10 points in the third quarter, nearly matching the output of the entire Joeten 2 crew, to give Best Deal/RNV more cushion, 58-47. Best Deal/RNV never relinquished

the double-digit lead, as Joeten 2 was held to its lowest production in a quarter (11 points) after making only two field goals, while Agustin and Rueda finished what Baul started in the third period to top their foes.

Agustin and Baul logged 20-plus points with the former recording 22 and the latter adding 21, while Rueda was not far behind after contributing 19. J.P. Cruz and John Oracion led Joeten 2 after making 13 points each.

Meanwhile, TDI leaned on its balance scoring to beat Docomo.

The winning squad had four players breaking into double figures with Sean Rabasto firing 28 points, and Nestor Arreza, Raymond Velasco, and Darwin Barbo chipping in 19, 17, and 14 markers, respectively.

Docomo, in contrast, relied heavily on Shane Deleon Guerrero and Tony Diaz with the former exploding for 31 points and the latter registering 28.

CONNIE'S

From Page 28

lead in the first quarter, 14-11. Mike Cabanas scored 6 points to pace IT&E Dark in the first quarter, while Barbo and Es-mores teamed up in the second period to help Connie's BBQ grab the lead, 29-28.

IT&E Dark then regained the upper hand in the third canto, 44-41, with Cabanas, Devero, and Dayrit joining forces.

However, Connie's BBQ had the last say in the seesaw battle, thanks to Barbo and Dayao. Barbo showed the way for Connie's with his 19 points, while Dayao and Es-mores also finished in twin digits with 11 and 10, respectively. Nelson Cabang was the other double figure scorer for Connie's with his 16 markers.

Meanwhile, the No. 1 seed Tsingtao led from start to finish to move to the semis and eliminate IT&E Light, the last playoff qualifier.

Jetzen Jandoc paced Tsing-

tao after drilling 30 points, while Mark Demonte Verde contributed 15.

First Game

Tsingtao Boyz 81—Jandoc 30, Demonte Verde 15, Pangelinan 13, Ariar 7, Pineda 7, Broncano 3, River 3, Giron 2, Tenepere 2.

IT&E Light 74—De Guzman 24, Santos 13, Divinagracia 12, Pamintuan 7, Nuguio 5, Jose 4, Aglipay 4, Palacios 3, Gotengco 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-16, 47-32, 67-53, 81-74.

Second Game

Connie's BBQ 67—Barbo 19, Cabang 16, Dayao 11, Es-mores 10, Rodriguez 5, Centina 2, Deleon Guerrero 2, Danao 2.

IT&E Dark 53—Devero 15, Cabanas 14, Chan 11, Dayrit 5, Aguon 3, Alegre 2, Brana 2.

Scoring by quarters: 11-14, 29-28, 41-44, 67-53.

Jaivan Dela Pena won the overall first place trophy and was the winner in the Teen Physique category.

In the Short Class Physique, Lorenzo Sanchez took home the first place trophy and was joined in the Top 5 by Javin Okawa, Leonard Sanchez, Roberto, and Enrico Valdez.

In the Master's Physique, Jun Ferdinand Lagmay placed first, while Ayson came in at second. For the Figure Division, Jordan Monderen won over Jenny Peneda who came in at second. The Bikini Division title was taken by reigning champ Natalia Larina, while Peachy Quitugua finished second. In the Fitness Pageant, Linzy Weglarezyke prevailed over Amy Alano and last year's winner Tanya Tau Salas.

First Game

TDI 98—Rabasto 28, Arreza 19, Velasco 17, Barbo 14, Barros 4, Reyes 3, Jo. Pollisco 3, Je. Pollisco 2.

Docomo 85—Deleon Guerrero 31, Diaz 28, Alvarez 7, Sablan 5, Grow 4, McCale 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-16, 39-31, 65-55, 98-85.

Second Game

Best Deal/RNV 74—Agus-



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Best Deal/RNV's Ronald Rueda, third left, takes off for a shot against Joeten 2's Ariel Madrid, left, and Yoshi Mafnas, second left, during the first quarter of their game in the JP World caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

tin 22, Baul 21, R. Rueda 19, J. Rueda 4, Taraya 2, Villacrusis 2, Jumaquio 2.

Joeten 2 58—Cruz 13, Oracion 13, Mafnas 12, Agulto 9, Montoya 7, Garcia 2, Madrid 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-20, 36-35, 58-47, 74-58.

NMBA

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Olympics Guam and Guam Badminton Federation in teaching as well as playing with kids and adults with disabilities," said Guerrero.

After participating in the Special Olympics, Guerrero, who represented the CNMI to the 2019 Pacific Games in Samoa, hopes that NMBA could also host a similar event.

"It's great for the sport and it was real nice seeing everyone enjoy themselves out there. I hope that one day or sometime soon, we could as well host a Special Olympics on Saipan and badminton would be one of the sports. It's great to grow the sport this way and also have events like this so everyone gets the chance to enjoy themselves and compete," Guerrero.

The Special Olympics had been in the works for two years and was just launched in August this year after Special Olympics Guam and the Guam National Badminton Federation signed an agreement to implement the program. Under the pact, GNBF will offer free instruction to badminton coaches and officials, who will then work with people with disabili-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas Badminton Association players gather for a group photo before assisting the Guam National Badminton Federation in conducting the Special Olympics at the John F. Kennedy High School Gymnasium last Saturday.

ties. GNBF will also provide coaches and players with disabilities access to equipment, venues, and competitions.

Meanwhile, Miles Guerrero, Patrick and Windy Fernandez, Jaja Bocago, Chris Hilario, Edwin Montoya, Janelle

and Jordan Pangilinan, Nicole Malasarte, Andreu Galvez, and Ezekiel and Daniel Macario joined Nate Guerrero in the three-day competition in Guam—a first for NMBA after two years.

"We are thankful to Guam

Badminton Federation for inviting us, along with the Philippines, to be apart of a local tournament here. We have not had a competition out here for about two years now, so we're all happy to be back," Guerrero said.

NEW

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dleweight category and was named Best Pose, while Ayson excelled in the light middleweight division.

In other results, Jerome Diycio took home the overall Classic Physique trophy along with the first place trophy in the tall class. Coming in at second in the overall Classic Physique was Sean Japor, while Jia Chun Ye and Brandon John Reyes completed the Top 3 in the tall class.

In the short class of the Classic Physique, Lorenzo Sanchez took home the first place honors and was followed by Ze Wei Shao, Jaivan Dela Pena, Alberto Roberto, and Shunliang Zhu.

In the Physique Division,



Scherzer no-hit
try into 7th, Nats
take 2-0 lead

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Davis hurt,
Nets sweep
Lakers in China

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

New winner in DC Classic

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

A new overall bodybuilding champion was crowned, as Italian Carmelo Miano topped the 2019 Dee Clayton Classic Bodybuilding and Fitness Championship held last Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Miano, who works at the Imperial Pacific Resort, won over last year's champion Stanley Iakopo, Shunliang Zhu, Ze Wei Shao, and Neil Ayson. The Italian also took the Best Abs award and the first place trophy in the welter-weight category.

It was Miano's first time to compete in the DC Classic and he couldn't put into words his excitement over earning the overall title. He added it felt good to win the championship this year, on his first try,



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

From left, Shunliang Zhu, Neil Ayson, Stanley Iakopo, Carmelo Miano, and Ze Wei Shao pose for the judges during the 2019 Dee Clayton Classic Bodybuilding and Fitness Championship held last Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

because he will leave the island in December and is unsure if he will return to compete again.



Meanwhile, Shao vied for the overall championship after ruling the Teen Bodybuilding, while Zhu

was also a top finisher in the lightweight category. Iakopo, on the other hand, reigned supreme in the mid-

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Connie's BBQ, Tsingtao reach semis

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER



Connie's BBQ and Tsingtao Boyz marched into the semifinals of the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League after recording contrasting victories in the play-off games last Thursday at the Civic Center Court.

Connie's BBQ survived a seesaw battle against IT&E Dark in the second win-or-go home game, 67-53, while Tsingtao Boyz dominated IT&E Light in the first playoff

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Connie's BBQ's Nelson Cabang pulls up for a short jumper against IT&E Dark's Dan Mateo during their playoff game in the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League last Thursday at the Civic Center Court.

match, 81-74.

Connie's BBQ managed to prevail and earn a slot in the semifinals after a long back and forth match against IT&E Dark, as it went all out in the fourth quarter. Connie's BBQ scored 26 points against the only 9 of IT&E Dark with Darwin Barbo and Kerwin Dayao leading the former's final push after scoring 9 markers each. Ronald Esmores also stepped up in the fourth frame, adding 6 points, while Boboy Centina made the other basket for Connie's BBQ.

IT&E Dark collapsed in the fourth canto after hitting only four field goals. Only Ivan Devero knocked in more than one basket for IT&E Dark in the deciding quarter.

The No. 7 seed IT&E Dark seemed ready to give the No. 2 rank Connie's BBQ a run for its money after taking the

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NMBA players volunteer in Guam Special Olympics

By ROSELYN B. MONROY
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Badminton Association members' trip to Guam was not all about competition, as the visiting players also got involved in an event for persons with disabilities.

Nate Guerrero, one of

the NMBA delegates to the Badminton Invitational Guam 2019, said they assisted participants in the Special Olympics held last Saturday at the John F. Kennedy High School Gymnasium.

"We were fortunate enough to assist Special

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GUAM NATIONAL BADMINTON FEDERATION PHOTO

Northern Marianas Badminton Association's Nate Guerrero oversees a match in the Special Olympics at the John F. Kennedy High School Gymnasium in Guam last Saturday.

